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THIS PERIODICAL IS INDEXED IN PERSI
# Land Records Mini-seminar

**By Keith Pyeatt**

Saturday, 23 June 2012, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

GFO Library (Note: the library will close for research at 1:45 p.m. on this day.)

20.00 for GFO members; $25.00 for non-members. Price goes up on June 16th!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics:</th>
<th>U.S. Land Records: An Historical Perspective</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Learn the effect history had on U.S. land records. This look at history will help you understand why there are state land states and public land states. Skill Level: Beginner, Intermediate</td>
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<td>Topics:</td>
<td>U.S. Land Records: The State Land States</td>
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<td>Researchers accustomed to using federal land records are often intimidated and confused with the &quot;metes and bounds&quot; survey system used by state land states. This presentation will introduce you to land records of the twenty state land states and to the &quot;metes and bounds&quot; survey system that is used. Learn how to draw metes and bounds legal descriptions (plat). Skill Level: All</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics:</td>
<td>U.S. Land Records: The Public Land States, Or Homage to the Square</td>
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<td>This presentation will introduce you to the land records for the thirty states created out of the public domain and to the Public Land Survey System, a uniquely American creation. When you discover that your great grandfather owned the NE1/4, Sec. 5, T3W, R12E of the 6th P.M., you will understand what it represents. Learn how to use land records to solve genealogical problems. Skill Level: All</td>
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| Who: | Keith Pyeatt |
|      | Keith is a full-time genealogy enthusiast who is a graduate of Brigham Young University and the University of Colorado Denver. He is becoming a credentialed genealogist. He and his wife conduct original genealogical research in record repositories throughout the United States. He is a fifth generation Oregonian and has been serving as an LDS family history consultant for the last ten years. |
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By Keith Pyeatt

Saturday, 23 June 2012, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
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Coffee/tea and cookies included with registration.
THE BULLETIN
of the
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

Volume 61, Issue 4  June 2012

SPECIAL FEATURES

American Wars from the Colonial Period to the Present
by Carol Ralston Surrency 3

The Great Calamity, King Philip’s War, 1675-1676
by Carol Ralston Surrency 7

Join or Die - The French and Indian War
by Judith Beaman Scott 9

America’s First Naval War
by Duane Funk 12

The Spanish – American War, Yellow Journalism, American Character and Imperialism by June Ralston Anderson 14

GFO WRITING CONTEST WINNER
A Clash of Conviction in North Carolina: The Struggle Over Religion, Politics and Independence by Judith Beaman Scott 17

REGULAR COLUMNS

Oregon County Research ~ Judith Scott
Clackamas County Records Office Materials by Susan LeBlanc, AG 24

Story Teller ~ Judith Scott
The 1940 Census Brings Back Childhood Memories by Bonnie LaDoe 29

Written in Stone ~ Carol Ralston Surrency
A Civil War Veteran’s Final Journey 32

Relics ~ Harvey Steele
Grant Hones Skills in the Mexican War 34

Extracts ~ Multnomah County Marriage Register Index 1911-1912
Marie Diers and Eileen Chamberlin 38

Book Reviews ~ Susan LeBlanc 42

In Memoriam 44
Letter From The Editor

Our past three Bulletins have been about the Civil War, the Revolutionary war and the War of 1812. As we thought about subjects for future issues, a fellow GFO member remarked that we hadn’t covered all the wars yet. So, this issue is about all the others – well, not quite. We’re not covering World War I or World War II. One of the things that became apparent during this research was that the U.S. and, for that matter, the world, has rarely been without war for more than a few short years at a time. It is startling to realize how fragile our peace is and was also interesting to note that some of the lesser known wars and skirmishes have had a major impact on how this country functions today. We would not be living with our current governmental system if they had turned out differently.

We begin with a timeline of American Wars. While it includes many short clashes and hostilities, it does not include most of the many wars with Native American tribes which extended from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. Nor does it include skirmishes such as the terrorist attack on the U.S.S. Cole or the U.S. led operation in Somalia, all events within our recent memory. Following the timeline is a sampling of major clashes in our first three hundred years, King Philip’s War in the 1600’s, the French and Indian War and the first American Naval War in the 1700’s, and the Spanish-American War in the 1800’s. Depending on when your ancestors came, you may have research to do for any of these events.

In our columns section, you can read about U.S. Grant and other prominent Civil War officers developing skills during the Mexican War. Written in Stone brings the story of a Civil War soldier finally buried with full military honors in 2012, while Story Teller puts a touching personal spin on searching in the 1940 census. The list of archived records in Clackamas County will benefit anyone researching there. As usual we include abstracts, book reviews and necrologies.

I hope everyone will find something to enjoy or benefit from in this issue of the Bulletin.

Carol Surrency

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(Contact the editors at gfobulletin@gmail.com.)
American Wars from the Colonial Period to the Present

Carol Ralston Surrency

1622-1644 Powhatan Wars
English settlers at Jamestown and Powhatan Indians clash. Two events in 1622 and 1644 leave 847 setters dead in Virginia and Maryland.

1638 Pequot War
By the early 1630’s, the Puritan settlers were expanding into the Connecticut River Valley region where they clash with the Pequot Indians, resulting in the annihilation of the tribe.

July 4, 1675 – August 12, 1676, King Philip’s War
An Indian leader, known as King Philip, organizes tribes in New England in a revolt over power and control in the area.

1676 Bacon’s Rebellion
Angered by British governor Berkeley’s support of the Indians, Nathaniel Bacon leads unauthorized forays against native tribes in Virginia. The governor is forced to flee and the colonial capital of Jamestown burned by the rebels.

1677-1679 Culpepper’s Rebellion
Colonists in Albemarle, Carolina, unhappy with British trade laws, imprison the deputy governor, convene their own legislature, elect Culpepper governor, and run the government for two years.

1689-1697 King William’s War
The first of the French and Indian Wars, the French and their Indians allies attack settlements in New York, New Hampshire and Maine. British colonial forces march north and attack Port Royal (Nova Scotia) and Quebec.

1689-1691 Leisler’s Rebellion
A local militia captain and merchant, Jacob Leisler, declares himself governor of New York and attempts to take control of the government. Eventually the British authorities intervene, have him arrested, tried for treason and executed.

1702-1713 Queen Anne’s War
Sometimes called the second French and Indian war. Colonial America is repeatedly involved with wars occurring in Europe between England, France and Spain. Fighting includes raids in Massachusetts, French Canada, Charleston and St. Augustine.

1739-1748 War of Jenkins Ear
Caused by hostilities between Britain and Spain over trading contracts to supply slaves and goods to Spanish territories in North America, the war got its name from an incident in 1731, when the Spanish Coast Guard boarded the British brig Rebecca and cut off the captain’s ear. Captain Jenkins was ordered to Parliament and, reportedly, produced his ear when recounting the Spanish depredations. Georgia residents invaded Florida (a Spanish colony), the British attacked areas of Central and South America and, in 1742, the Spanish attempted to seize the colony of Georgia. Border fighting continued after this date, but there were no major events on the American mainland. Georgia commemorates the war yearly at Warmoes Plantation in Savannah.

1744-1748 King George’s War
The third French and Indian War. As war breaks out again in Europe between France, Prussia and Spain against the British, battles rage from Canada to the Caribbean as French, Indians, and Spanish fight British forces in the Americas. Areas of New England become increasingly hostile toward the French.

1754-1763 French and Indian War
Also known in Europe as the Seven Year War. Both British troops and colonial militias battled the French and their Indian allies. It was the bloodiest war in the eighteenth Century, taking more lives that the American Revolution. The primary impetus on both sides was land and wealth.

1765-66 Stamp Act Revolt
An attempt by the British Government to make the colonies pay for the French and Indian War, the Stamp Act...
was passed in 1765, sending money directly to England for the first time. The Act taxed all printed materials, including: newspapers, pamphlets, bills, legal documents, licenses, almanacs and playing cards. The Sons of Liberty, an underground organization, was formed in a number of towns to resist the Stamp Act through acts of violence and a boycott that caused all business and legal transactions to cease. The Stamp Act was repealed in 1766.

1768-1771 Regulator War
Citizens in Western North Carolina take up arms against corrupt colonial officials and fight both officials and the militia.

1770 Boston Massacre
A mob harasses British soldiers who fire their muskets into the crowd, killing five.

1772 Boston Tea Party
The Tea Act takes effect, maintaining an import tax on tea already in effect, and giving the floundering East India Company a monopoly on tea. When three tea bearing ships arrive in Boston Harbor, the colonist’s decide to send the ship back to England. The Royal Governor refuses to allow the ship to sail unless the duties are paid. Colonial activists dress as Indians, board the ships and dump all 342 chests of tea into the water, a loss for the East India Company of about a million dollars in today’s currency. The so-called Boston tea party was not singular. Following the Boston incident, other tea “dumping” parties were held in Philadelphia, Charleston, New York, Annapolis, Wilmington, Greenwich and other locations.

1774 Lord Dunmore’s War
Lord Dunmore, the Royal Governor of Virginia, wanted to expand into the Ohio River Valley. Under the pretense of negotiating a treaty with the Shawnee Indians, he sent the Virginia Militia into battle with them instead.

1775-1783 American Revolution
Thirteen colonies fight for independence from Britain.

1786-1787 Shay’s Rebellion
Patriots or traitors? Two different views of the rebels who marched on courthouses in Massachusetts and shut them down to prevent the trials and imprisonment of debt-ridden farmers during the economic crisis following the Revolutionary War. Daniel Hays, a veteran of the Revolution led the revolt. This challenge to the new republic was considered very dangerous by the “founding Fathers” as governmental systems were not developed and the constitution not yet adopted.

1790-1812 Ohio Valley Campaigns
Broken treaties and expansion into Ohio, Illinois and Indiana caused periodic fighting with Indian tribes.

1794 Whiskey Rebellion
As part of the compromise leading to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in 1789, the new government agreed to pay off the Revolutionary War debts of the 13 states. In 1791, the first internal revenue tax was passed – an excise tax on distilled spirits varying from 6 to 18 cents per gallon. All payments had to be made in cash to the revenue agent for the local county. Smaller distillers often wound up paying twice as much as larger ones who simply passed the expense on to their customers. Farmers along the frontier found whiskey more transportable than grain and used it as cash to buy needed goods. Deeply resented, enforcement led to violence. Eventually, the rebellion was curbed by 13,000 federalized militiamen in the backcountry of Pennsylvania.

1798-1800 Quasi-war with France
French privateers prey on U.S. merchant ships, prompting a naval war between the United States and France.

1801-1805 First Barbary War
The “scourge of the Mediterranean”, the Barbary Pirates captured merchant ships, enslaving or ransoming their crews to enhance the wealth and power of the Muslim rulers of North African nations. The U.S. sends naval forces to blockade and fight the enemy.

1812-1815 War of 1812
The United States declares war on Britain. Several expeditions into Canada are made in an attempt to remove British presence from all of North America, but they are largely unsuccessful. The British burn Washington.

1815 Second Barbary War
The second war fought with the Barbary States of Tripoli, Tunis, and Algeria. This ended the practice of paying tribute to the pirate states and marked the beginning of the end of piracy in that area.

1817-1819 first Seminole War
White settlers are attacked in Georgia. U.S. troops move south, burning Spanish forts in Florida, which is relinquished to the United States in 1819. Andrew Jackson
was notable in this war.

1835-1842 Second Seminole War
The Seminoles, who had sided with the Spanish and the British against Americans (so-called after 1776) refused to honor treaties agreeing to move west and war was launched involving more than 60,000 militiamen, volunteers and regulars. Although there were few battle deaths, many casualties occurred from Florida’s climate. At the end of the war, Seminoles were relocated to Oklahoma.

1836 War of Texas Independence
In 1830, the Mexicans forbade further American Immigration into Texas. In 1832 and 1833, settlers formed a loose government and tried to negotiate with Mexico. All efforts were rejected. After a series of battles and the defeat of Santa Anna at San Jacinto in 1836, Texas won her independence.

1838-1839 Trail of Tears
The forced removal of Cherokee, Choctaw, Seminole, and Chickasaw Indians from their land in the Southeast to territory in present-day Oklahoma. More than 4,000 die during the journey.

1839 Aroostook War
A nonviolent boundary dispute between the U.S. and Great Britain over the boundary between Canada and Maine. Tensions became high and both sides raised troops, but an amicable resolution was found. Sometimes called the Pork and Beans war.

1839-1846 Anti-Rent War
This uprising, in nine New York counties, was a rebellion against the carryover of a feudal European land system. The Dutch and English Governments had granted millions of acres to politically connected individuals who then leased it in a perpetual lease rather than sell it. Farmers, patterning themselves after Patriots of the Boston Tea Party, disguised themselves as “Indians”, caused disruptions to land sales, and tarred and feathered their opponents.

1841 Dorr Rebellion
Taking place about the same time as the Anti-Rent War, the Dorr rebellion was a peaceful attempt to reform the 1663 colonial charter of Rhode Island allowing only land owners to vote.

1846-1848 Mexican War
Also called the First War of Intervention, the Mexican War occurred after the U.S. annexed Texas in 1846. Mexico was defeated and present-day Northern California, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Nevada were ceded to the U.S.

1857-1858 Utah War
U. S. troops are sent to Utah by President Buchanan to quell a supposed rebellion by Mormon settlers against the Federal government. On-going hostilities frustrated the U.S. Army, but the “war” had no battles and was resolved by negotiation.

1860-1900 Plains and Western Indian Wars
Western expansion, broken treaties and atrocities committed by both sides lead to conflict in every western state.

1861-1864 American Civil War
Southern states secede and the North battles to keep the Union intact. Slavery and state’s rights are major issues.

1866-1871 Fenian War
The Fenian Brotherhood, based in the United States, committed raids on British Forts and other targets in Canada in an attempt to encourage Britain to withdraw from Ireland. Protestant Irish or descendant’s of Ulster Scots fought with the Orange Order (Orangemen belonged to an organization that had originally supported William of Orange) against the Finians.

1898 Spanish-American War
The United States declares war on Spain with the sinking of the Maine in Havana Harbor. As a result, Spain lost the remnants of its colonial empire, freeing Cuba and transferring Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines and other islands to the U.S.

1899-1902 Philippine Insurrection
An attempt by Filipinos’ to win independence after annexation by the United States. In 1946, following World War II, independence was granted.

1900 Boxer Rebellion
A pro-nationalist movement in China, 20,000 troops, including U.S. Marines went in to relieve the besieged city of Peking.

1901-1904 Banana Wars
U.S. Marines were sent to suppress bandits and quell
revolts in Haiti, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Cuba.

1916-1917 Pancho Villa Expedition
Politically dominant in Northern Mexico, Villa tried to create revolution that would give land to peasants and soldiers. Upset with the U.S. for not supporting him, he attacked Columbus, New Mexico, and President Wilson sent 5,000 troops into Mexico after him. The attempt to catch him was unsuccessful.

1917-1918 World War I
The First World War began in 1914, but the United States did not send troops until 1917. The U.S. enlisted almost three million men by 1918, with 10,000 shipping out daily for France to fight in the “Great War”, “the war to end all wars”.

1919-1920 Russian Revolution
U.S. sends troops to Vladivostok to assist Russians in the fight against Revolutionaries.

1941-1945 World War II
More than 16 million Americans fight in Europe, the Pacific and North Africa. More than one million U.S. casualties and nearly 400,000 deaths resulted.

1944-1991 Cold War
The U.S. attempts to stop the spread of communism.

1950-1953 Korean War
North Korea invades South Korea bringing a United Nations “police action” with heavy involvement of American military. An armistice is agreed on 1953, but no peace treaty has ever been signed.

1959-1975 Vietnam War
Beginning as a revolt against French Colonial rule, communist forces attempt to unify the peninsula. Concerned about the spread of communism in Southeast Asia, the U.S. becomes embroiled in an increasingly unpopular war. Over three million troops deploy.

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis – Bay of Pigs Invasion
The U.S. and U.S.S.R. face off over Russian missiles in Cuba.

1983 Operation Urgent Fury - Grenada
A combined force of U.S. and Caribbean troops invades the island of Grenada to overthrow the Communist government and replace it with a pro-western one.

1989 U.S. Invasion of Panama
Operation Just Cause U.S. forces invade Panama to capture President Manuel Noriega and restore stability to the region and to Panama Canal shipping.

1990-1991 Persian Gulf War
Operation Desert Shield/Storm The U.S. leads a multinational coalition against Iraq following its invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

1995-1996 Intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina
U.S. troops support U.N. operations in the region.

2001 Invasion of Afghanistan
U.S. troops battle terrorism.

2003 Invasion of Iraq

Some Research Aids:
Jamestown Conflict, Virginia, 1622
King James I ordered Virginia’s leaders to take a census in 1623/4. Known as a muster, it recorded deaths resulting from the Indian attack as well as the individuals who survived. The musters are searchable at www.virtualjamestown.org/Muster/muster24.html. The original musters are in the Public Record Office in London.

King Philip’s War, 1675
Information about Massachusetts soldiers in King Philip’s War can be found at www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/newengland/philip. Several digitized books about the war can be found at http://books.google.com/.

French and Indian War, 1754-63
The Great Calamity, King Philip’s War, 1675-1676
Carol Ralston Surrency

The horrors and devastation of Philip’s war have no parallel in our history. The Revolution was a struggle for freedom; the contest with Philip was for existence. The war lasted only about fourteen months; and yet the towns of Brookfield, Lancaster, Marlborough, Medfield, Sudbury, Groton, Deerfield, Hatfield, Hadley, Northfield, Springfield, Weymouth, Chelmsford, Andover, Scituate, Bridgewater, Plymouth, and several other places were wholly or partially destroyed, and many of the inhabitants were massacred or carried into captivity. During this short period, six hundred of our brave men, the flower and strength of the colony, had fallen, and six hundred dwelling houses were consumed. Every eleventh family was houseless, and every eleventh soldier had sunk to his grave.

What caused such devastation to occur in Puritan New England? This war, lasting for a little more than a year, was not the first experienced by European settlers in the new world. The colony at Jamestown, Virginia, had an on-going series of clashes with Powhatan tribes and Indian massacres of more than 800 settlers in Virginia and Maryland that occurred between 1622 and 1644. In return, two-hundred and fifty Powhatan Indians were poisoned during peace negotiations.

New Englanders’ began their relationship with local Indian tribes on a peaceful note. Chief Massasoit saved the original Plymouth Colony from starvation, and continued befriending them until his death. With the exception of the Pequot war in 1637, peace was maintained. This did not mean that tensions were not developing between the two different cultures. Indians complained that colonists’ livestock trampled their cornfields and there was competition for other resources also. Many tribes were decimated by European diseases: smallpox, spotted fever, typhoid and measles, against which the Native Americans had no immunity. According to several sources, these diseases began affecting tribes some years before the arrival of the Puritans in 1620. Fishermen and hunters from several European countries were known to be operating off the coast of New England well before the arrival of the Mayflower.

Almost every article or book when writing about the difficulties that arose says the main issue between the two groups was expansion of the colonists into Native territory and the conflicting views of land use and land ownership. Reality may have been a little more complicated. Edward Winslow said of the Wampanoags, “Every sachim knoweth how far the bounds and limits of his own country extendeth; and that is his own proper inheritance. Out of that, if any of his men desire land to set their corn, he giveth them as much as they can use, and sets them their bounds.” Roger Williams maintained that “the Natives are very exact and punctual in the bounds of their lands...And I have knowne them make bargaine and sale amongst themselves for a small piece, or quantity of Ground.”

New England tribes appear to have had some form of land ownership for their residences and planting fields. Hunting land also seems to have been divided into specific areas reserved, both for individuals or, as is typical of tribes across the country, larger groups consisting of families or tribes. There were disputes. Right of ownership based on oral agreements could present a challenge if an individual Indian chose to sell land. However, as with European nations, Indian government oversaw the transfer of property and Native chiefs (sachems) regularly took part in land transactions as witnesses or cosigners.

The Puritan governments also had a number of regulations regarding the purchase of land from Indians. Transactions had to go through local authorities and most colonies required the use of government agents. Interpreters were used, several witnesses from both parties signed or made their marks on the final document and the deed was recorded.

What did the Indians get from selling their land? Usually, they wanted tools, metal knives, hoes, shovels, and, sometimes cloth or clothing. Making it even more appealing for the tribal seller was that he generally retained hunting and fishing rights according to hundreds of surviving land sale deeds from the period.

Metacom, known as King Philip to the colonists, continued to sell off small parcels of land even as hostilities were developing.

Certainly, territorial issues and misunderstandings played a part in the conflict. But, if land was not the only impetus for King Philip’s War, what else led up to this terrible period in history? New England’s population was expanding rapidly creating pressure on traditional homelands and causing game to become more scarce. William Bradford died in 1657 and Massasoit about 1660.
ending the friendships of original settlers and natives and only a few were still alive who remembered the Pequot War of the 1630s. The second generation of colonists was in charge. Josiah Winslow, son of Mayflower passengers Edward and Susanna Winslow, was elected governor of the Plymouth Colony in 1673. He was wealthy, Harvard educated, and no longer concerned about relying on the Indians as allies and trade partners. He wanted to dominate his environment and he may have been one who obtained land by questionable methods. The younger Puritan generation was not worried about being a match for any Indian challenge.8

After Massasoit’s death, his son Wamsutta succeeded him. Interestingly, both Wamsutta and his brother Metacom attended Harvard for a time and, while there, requested that they be given English names. Wamsutta’s was Alexander and Metacom’s was Philip. Wamsetta was accused of improper land trading and marched to Plymouth for questioning, where, shortly after, he died suddenly. Philip then became chief. He, too, was taken to Plymouth for questioning and was released only after surrendering a cache of guns and agreeing to abide by English law. Angered by his treatment and very suspicious of his brother’s death, Philip felt that he was losing power and control; he vowed he would accept no more humiliation.9 Even before this, he was contacting other tribes in an attempt to create a confederacy.

War began in the summer of 1675. The Narragansetts, Nipmucs, and Pocumtucks joined King Philip while other tribes sided with the Puritans. The trigger may have been the hanging of three Wampanoags accused of murdering a Christianized Indian who acted as an interpreter for the colonists. Indians attacked Swansea on June 24 and continued destroying surrounding towns, even threatening Boston at one point. Panic ensued. Puritan communities, who had assumed that they could easily handle any uprising that might occur, passed America’s first draft laws calling up all men within the ages of 16 and 60.10 In December, six companies of Massachusetts Militia joined by troops from Connecticut colonies, attacked the fortified Indian village near Providence and destroyed it after a three hour fight. According to reports, eighty colonists were killed and one hundred and fifty wounded. Winter made this loss of food and supplies dire for the Indians and after that, they were able to raid only sporadically in small, uncoordinated groups.

Philip’s support waned, and when the Mohawks refused to join him, not wanting to give up their lucrative fur-trade profits, his end was all but guaranteed. Desperate, one of his warriors encouraged him to surrender and Philip had him put to death. The man’s brother, fearing for his own life, fled to the Puritans and told them the location of Philip’s camp. Captain Benjamin Church’s troops surrounded the camp and King Philip was killed by a bullet fired by the same Wampanoag whose brother Philip had killed. Orders were given that Philip be beheaded and quartered, following English laws for high treason. Philip’s head was taken to Plymouth, where his quartered body was hung on four separate trees and his head displayed on a pole for twenty-five years. His wife and son were sold into slavery in the West Indies.11

It was a brutal war and a disaster on both sides. Even the Indians in the “praying communities” (Christianized Indians) were sent with the others to reservations. Out of ninety colonists’ towns, thirteen were leveled and fifty-two attacked and damaged. With twelve hundred homes destroyed and eight thousand cattle killed, the economy was near ruin. At least six hundred colonial men were killed and as many as two thousand women and children. Even more Indians are believed to have died, not only from battle, but, also, starvation and disease.12 It was one of the bloodiest and costliest wars in U.S. history.

(Author’s Note) The books; King Philip’s War by Ellis and Morris printed 1906, The History of Philip’s War by Thomas Church printed 1829, and The History of King Philip’s War by Increase and Cotton Mather printed 1862 but originally written in the 1600s are all available in the GFO library. They contain hundreds of names of militiamen and towns people from the time of King Philip’s war, a good resource for those with New England ancestry.

(Endnotes)

5. Ibid. 105
6. Ibid. 107
7. Ibid. 108
10. Ibid.
The French and Indian War

Judith Beaman Scott

On May 28, 1754, a 22 year old colonial soldier led an attack on a party of French soldiers in Western Pennsylvania. This attack was the beginning of a global war and set the stage for the control of vast amounts of land west of the Appalachian Mountains in North America and, ultimately, the American Revolution. This was truly “the shot heard round the world”.2

George Washington had started a world war! The North American theater of this war is referred to as the French and Indian War, while the global conflict is known as the Seven Years War, involving Austria, England, France, Great Britain, Prussia, Sweden and several Native Indian Nations in North America. Austria, France and Sweden wanted to break the power of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, while the French and English wanted control of colonies in North America, India and the Caribbean.

The Battle of Jumonville Glen

The British and French had been sparring over territory in the Ohio River Valley for some time. The French were there to protect their claim to an area also claimed by Virginia. Lt. Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia, acting on his own, dispatched colonial militia to “protect” the claim of the Ohio Land Company. George Washington, on a previous foray into the area in 1753, had suggested a fort be built at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, where the Ohio was formed. Early in 1754 work began on the British fort, but the French ousted the British and built Fort Duquesne on the site of present day Pittsburg.

Washington was on his way to the area with a small militia force when he learned that the 1,000 French soldiers had taken over the site at the “forks of the Ohio”.3

When the French learned Washington was nearby a small patrol was sent to warn Washington about encroaching on French territory. Local Indians warned Washington that the group was planning to attack, so the militia and a small group of Mingo warriors surrounded the French soldiers. There are conflicting accounts of the short battle, but many agree that Jumonville, the leader of the Canadians was killed under questionable circumstances. Some say that the Indian leader Tanacharison killed and scalped him.

Afterwards, expecting retaliation, Washington and his men, along with the friendly Indians returned to their camp at Great Meadows and hastily put up a palisade they called Fort Necessity. On July 3, the French forces struck back. After a day long battle Washington surrendered and returned with his men to Virginia.4

Claims on the Territory

Beginning in the 1740s, French fur traders were doing business with the Native American tribes in the Ohio River Valley. British traders and hunters were also exploring the region. France set up trading posts in Canada and around the Great Lakes, and maintained relationships with the native Indians. Meanwhile, British colonists settled along the Atlantic coast and were pushing westward toward the hunting grounds of the Indians.

In 1748 the British Crown granted 200,000 acres near the forks of the Ohio to the Ohio Land Company. The Virginia government approved the grant with the proviso that the company build a fort to protect the British interest in the area and settle 100 families there. Shareholders in the Ohio Company included Lt. Governor Dinwiddie, and two brothers of George Washington. Exploration of the area began, quickly followed by settlers, eager for land.5

Most French resources were to the North, but they became concerned about the British exploration and their relationship with the tribes in the region. A French expedition from Montreal buried lead plates along the Ohio River to claim the territory in 1749.6 At the time they had only one fort, Vincennes, on the river. In 1752 the new governor of New France ordered his army to secure the Ohio River Valley and in 1753 a large force left Montreal to build a series of forts.

With increasing hostilities along the frontier two regiments of British troops were sent to the colonies commanded by General Edward Braddock in April 1755. He planned to lead his troops, bolstered by militia, against the French at Fort Duquesne. Governor William Shirley
of Massachusetts was second in command, and was to take Fort Niagara.

On July 9, 1755 Braddock marched his men, 1,373 soldiers and 86 officers along with Indian scouts into a trap laid by more than 1,000 French and Indians. Sixty-three officers were killed, and 914 soldiers died. Braddock has insisted on building a road along the way to move supplies, especially cannon, which slowed them immensely and split his force. The French commander of Fort Duquesne was getting reports from the Indians about the British progress. He was in no position to hold the fort with his 250 soldiers so he decided to ambush the British at the Monongahela River with the support of 640 Indians.

Braddock refused to listen to the advice of his colonial officers, including George Washington and John Fraser, both familiar with the area. An Indian contingent approached the British asking them to stop while the Indians tried to negotiate with the fort. Both Washington and Fraser urged Braddock to agree but he refused. He led his troops across the Monongahela River and towards the fort, meeting the French about ten miles from the Fort.

Despite the death of their commander at the beginning of the fight the French rallied and pushed the British back. Braddock was shot, and later died. George Washington took command and led the troops back down the road. Following is Washington’s account of the fight.

[Fort Cumberland, July 18, 1755.]

Honour’d Mad’m: As I doubt not but you have heard of our defeat, and perhaps have it represented in a worse light (if possible) than it deserves; I have taken this earliest opportunity to give you some acct. of the Engagement, as it happen’d within 7 miles of the French Fort, on Wednesday the 9th. Inst.

We March’d on to that place with’t any considerable loss, having only now and then a stragler pick’d up by the French Scoutg. Ind’nd. When we came there, we were attack’d by a Body of French and Indns. whose number, (I am certain) did not exceed 300 Men; our’s consisted of abt. 1,300 well arm’d Troops; chiefly of the English Soldiers, who were struck with such a panic that they behav’d with more cowardice than it is possible to conceive; The Officers behav’d Gallantly in order to encourage their Men, for which they suffer’d greatly; there being near 60 kill’d and wounded; a large proportion out of the number we had! The Virginia Troops shew’d a good deal of Bravery, and were near all kill’d; for I believe out of 3 Companys that were there, there is scarce 30 Men left alive; Capt. Peyrouny and all his Officer’s down to a Corporal was kill’d; Capt. Polson shar’d near as hard a Fate; for only one of his was left: In short the dastardly behaviour of those they call regular’s expos’d all others that were inclin’d to do their duty to almost certain death; and at last, in dispight of all the efforts of the Officer’s to the Contrary, they broke and run as Sheep pursued by dogs; and it was impossible to rally them.

The Genl. was wounded; of w’ch he died 3 Days after; Sir Peter Halket was kill’d in the Field where died many other brave Officer’s; I luckily escap’d with a wound, tho’ I had four Bullets through my Coat, and two Horses shot under me; Captns. Orme and Morris two of the Genls. Aids de Camp, were wounded early in the Engagem’t. which render’d the duty hard upon me, as I was the only person then left to distribute the Genl’s. Orders which I was scarcely able to do, as I was not half recover’d from a violent illness, that confin’d me to my Bed, and a Waggon, for above 10 Days; . . . I am, Hon’d Madam Yr. most dutiful Son.

Shirley was on the march to attack Fort Niagara when he got word of Braddock’s defeat and the death of his own son in the battle. The attack on Fort Niagara by the new commander of the British forces was repelled and an attack on Fort Ticonderoga failed as well.

One reason for the French success was their alliance with the Native Americans tribes. Most tribes traded with both the French and the English, but with the constant threat of English settlers west of the Appalachian Mountains the Indians were fearful for their way of life.

French General Montcalm was sent to New France with two regiments and promptly defeated the British at Fort Oswego and Fort William Henry. War was not yet declared.

In May 1756, England officially declared war on France after two years of fighting. Shirley was replaced as commander and as governor of Massachusetts. Although James Abercrombie was appointed commander, William Pitt, who was now ensonced in the War Ministry, sent several officers to the colonies that were to report directly to him.

The colonies raised 10,000 troops and thousands more British soldiers were sent. Pitt ordered the re-capture of Louisburg, North East coast of Nova Scotia, which the British had handed back to the French ten years earlier, over the protest of the colonists who saw its value. The French had heavily reinforced the fort since its return and the New Englanders were not happy about this turn of
events. Instead of the approximately 4,000 militia men who captured Louisburg in 1745, the British sent 13,000 troops, supported by 59 warships, 14,000 sailors and 1,842 cannon. After a hard-fought battle the two sides met to discuss terms of surrender on 26 July.10

The next year a campaign in Canada led to the fall of Quebec by Wolfe in 1759; both he and Montcalm were killed. The British were in control of the St. Lawrence River which was the supply line for the French, and which in turn led to the fall of Montreal. General Forbes had taken Fort Duquesne on the Ohio as well.

War on the frontier

The French and Indian War was fought primarily on the frontier and was especially harsh for the isolated settlers in the mid-Atlantic colonies. Rising tensions between the natives and western settlers were exacerbated by the encroachment on tribal hunting grounds. Much of the frontier was unprotected.

On July 8, 1755, the day before Braddock’s defeat, a band of Shawnees attacked the settlement of Draper’s Meadow in Virginia. Several members of the community were killed and at least five were taken captive by the Indians, a common occurrence on the frontier. The remarkable true story of Mary Draper Ingalls captivity and escape to walk 800 miles back to her home is an example of the threats to the frontier settlers as well as their fortitude.11

Attacks like those at Draper’s Meadow were common on the frontier and forced many settlers to move east into less hazardous territory. Horrible atrocities were often visited upon the frontier; kidnappings, scalping, and torture were commonplace.

The war continued in Europe until 1763, when England and France signed the Treaty of Paris. England gained control of most of the French holdings in North America, most of Canada and the land between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi river.12

The hostilities on the frontier were not over for the settlers. The Indians were determined to keep the British east of the mountains. A treaty to appease the Indians declared that the land west of the Appalachians was Indian land and could not be settled. But no treaty could hold back the tide of settlers anxious to own land and the land speculators ready to make their fortunes.

The French and Indian War set the stage for the American Revolution. Britain expected the colonies to pay back the amount spent “protecting” the colonies and began exacting numerous taxes and tariffs against the colonists. Their military experience during the war trained many of the leaders of the coming revolution, including the commander of the United States Army, and of course, our first president, George Washington.

(Endnotes)

1. “Join or Die”, Benjamin Franklin, Pennsylvania Gazette, May 9, 1754. Library of Congress. The first political cartoon published in an American newspaper. The snake represents the colonies which Franklin believed were fragmented and in need of uniting against the French. He hoped to convince the colonies to unite so they would have great power against the threat of French expansion in North America.


4. Matthew C. Ward, Breaking the Back Country; The Seven Years War in Virginia and Pennsylvania. (Pittsburg:Univ of Pittsburg Press 2003),p 35. Washington signed terms of surrender that were in French and unknowingly accepted responsibly for the muder of Jumonville.


6. Mrs. Delta A. McCulloch. “Celeron de Blainville Buries Lead Plates” West Virginia Division of Culture and History; (http://www.wvculture.org/history/settlement/celeron01.html ; accessed 23 April 2012); citing The Pocahontas Times, November 20, 1924.

7. Thomas E. Crocker, Braddock’s March.


America’s First Naval War
Duane Funk

With just a handful of ships during the American Revolution, the Continental Navy had taken on the British Royal Navy, the largest in the world. These ships in their uphill battle began the American Naval tradition. After the war, despite their accomplishments, there was little support for naval power in Congress. It looked like the United States was destined to have little presence on the seas of the world.

In 1785, the last Continental warship, the Alliance, was sold, putting the United States out of the Navy business. Trouble with the Barbary States soon pointed up the need for a Navy. When Washington became President, his Secretary of War (there was no Navy department), Henry Knox, looked into building ships. Finding little support in Congress, he put the idea on the back burner.

By 1794, continued trouble with the Barbary States convinced Congress to fund a Navy. On 27 March 1794, they passed a Navy act providing for the building of six frigates. With a weather eye on the national debt (it reached 223 million dollars that year) Congress stipulated that if a diplomatic solution to the piracy problem was achieved, work on the ships would stop. Algiers accepted a tribute offer and work on the last three frigates was suspended. United States, Constellation, and Constitution were completed.

In the meantime, the war of the French Revolution was raging in Europe, and the war at sea between Britain and France had escalated. Both sides were trying to strangle the other’s sea borne commerce. The Jay Treaty of 1794 normalized trade between Britain and the United States. The combination of the Jay Treaty and the Royal Navy’s control of the sea lanes to Europe put France at a disadvantage. France struck back with a series of decrees that ultimately ordered the seizure of neutral ships found carrying British goods anywhere. Unable to get a fleet to sea to enforce these decrees, France fell back on privateers. In one year they captured over 300 American ships, some right off our own coast.

Finding France hostile and unwilling to negotiate a settlement, the United States began to put its naval house in order. Congress first authorized completion of the frigates President, Congress, and Chesapeake. That was followed by authorization to build, buy, or convert additional ships. On 30 April 1798, Congress established the Navy Department separate from the War Department. President John Adams then appointed Benjamin Stoddert the first Secretary of the Navy.

In May, Congress authorized seizure of armed French ships in American waters. In July it extended that authorization to the high seas. The United States was thus effectively at war with its old ally, France, without a formal declaration of war. France was also at war with Britain, but there was no alliance between the U.S. and the British. The two navies did engage in a limited cooperation. American ships were allowed to use Royal Navy bases in the Caribbean, giving the US a logistical advantage and U.S. naval officers a chance to observe their Royal Navy counterparts at close quarters.

From the beginning, the U.S. Navy seemed to have the upper hand. The first ship to be taken was the French Croyable, 14 guns. Captured by the Delaware, 20 guns, she was taken into U.S. service as the Retaliation. Under the command of LT. William Bainbridge, she deployed to the Caribbean where she was caught between the two French ships, the Insurgente, 36 guns, and the Volontaire, 44 guns, and forced to surrender, the only U.S. Navy ship to be lost during the war. She was recaptured by the United States a few months later.

In February of 1799, the Insurgente was herself caught by the Constellation, 36 guns, Thomas Truxton commanding. Losing the upper part of her main mast in a squall, Insurgente was out-maneuvered by Constellation and forced to surrender after losing 29 men. Constellation lost one, shot by his own officer for deserting his post.

Nearly a year later Truxton and the Constellation found the Volontaire. Even though out-gunned, Truxton gave chase, and in a five-hour running gun battle all but wrecked his stronger opponent. Both ships lost contact in the darkness after midnight. With water slowly gaining on the pumps, Volontaire’s Captain was forced to ground his riddled ship on the beach at Curacao. French casualties were estimated at over 150 while the heavily damaged Constellation had 14 killed and 25 wounded.

In 1800, two 12-gun schooners entered the fight. They were the Experiment and the Enterprise. This Enterprise was the third of eight to carry that name in the U.S. Navy. It soon added luster to a name on its way to becoming a legend. In six months she took 13 French vessels, gaining her the nickname of “lucky little Enterprise.” Her sister also gave a good account of herself, once beating off several hundred small craft trying to take a becalmed convoy.
In the last battle of the war, the U.S. frigate Boston, 28 guns, took the corvette Berceau, 24 guns. Both nations had already made peace, but the word had not gotten to the ships.

In the peace, France cancelled its 1798 decree that authorized the seizure of neutral ships and, in turn, the U.S. dropped its claims for damages against France. -In a little over two years, the U.S. Navy with 34 ships at its peak had taken about 80 enemy vessels, with only one loss. Not bad for a navy that had not existed a few months before the war started and had to be built nearly from scratch.

Officers who would rise to fame in the campaign against the Barbary Pirates and the War of 1812 got their start in the war with France. William Bainbridge, the unfortunate commander of the Retaliation had just joined the Navy and was on his first tour. He would later command the Constitution when she took HMS Java. Thomas Macdonough, the victor of Lake Champlain, was a midshipman on the Ganges. David Porter, too, was a midshipman, under Truxton on the Constellation. He would in turn make his foster son, and future Admiral, David Glasgow Farragut, a midshipman on his ship the Essex in 1812. Isaac Hull, another future Captain of the Constitution, got his start on that same ship during the Quasi-War. Oliver Hazard Perry, of Lake Erie fame, was a midshipman under his father.

Privateer Pension Fund in 1812

Most researchers know that the Pension Act covering large numbers of Revolutionary War soldiers was not authorized until 1832. They might be surprised to learn that Congressional Acts of 1799 and 1800 created a Navy Pension fund by using the government’s share of prizes captured by the Navy. Money obtained was invested in interest-bearing securities and bank stock.

Even more surprising is that Congress established the Privateer Pension Fund in 1812 covering disabled sailors, widows and orphans. This fund was financed by a two percent levy on prizes captured during the war and invested in six percent government bonds.

The possibility of great riches made privateering much more appealing to many than the US Navy. There were 517 American privateer vessels compared to 23 Navy ships during the War of 1812.

Sources for locating these records are the National Archives, Fold3.com’s “War of 1812 Pension files” and Genealogy Bank’s “Historical Documents (1789-1984)”.

Information obtained from “Tracing Your War of 1812 Ancestors” by David Norris, published by Moorshead Magazines.

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The Spanish - American War, Yellow Journalism, American Character and Imperialism

June Ralston Anderson

Yellow Journalism

One factor leading up to the war was the yellow journalism practiced in newspapers owned by William Randolph Hearst and Joseph Pulitzer. The term originated with a character dressed in yellow, called “the yellow kid” in a cartoon “Hogan’s Alley” drawn by R. F. Outcault in Pulitzer’s paper, New York World. Hearst considered Pulitzer’s paper the main competition for his New York Journal. They were each determined to best the other in sales, and income. Hearst also wanted his paper to be more powerful than Pulitzer’s and he succeeded in hiring the yellow kid cartoonist away from Pulitzer. In their race to achieve supremacy, Hearst and Pulitzer had their employees manufacture and sensationalize news. They used hyperbole, and falsely romanticized stories. Since that time, journalism of that type has been called yellow journalism.

Hearst believed that a war with Cuba would sell newspapers and make him into a national figure to be reckoned with. In the prelude to the hostilities, his papers were constantly filled with lurid stories, sometimes based on some factual event, but then exaggerated. Based on these newspaper stories, many Americans came to believe that if Spain did not control Cuba, the horrors reported in Hearst’s papers would go away.

Then, on February 15, 1898¹ the battleship, USS Maine sank in Havana Harbor due to an explosion. Based on no evidence whatsoever, the Hearst newspapers declared that Spain was responsible for blowing up and destroying the ship.² Most historians concur with recent research indicating that a mechanical problem in the boiler room caused the explosion, and that Spain was not involved.

While the sinking of the Maine did not immediately cause the U.S. to declare war, the cry “Remember the Maine” became a common rallying call in whipping up public support, not only by newspaper sellers, but also by those who believed imperialist expansion was America’s best destiny, and by those who believed war made better men and better Americans. On April 4, 1898 Hearst’s New York Journal printed a million copies of the paper supporting a war in Cuba. On April 20, 1898, President McKinley signed the congressional Joint Resolution for war with Spain.³

Turner’s Thesis

Another push toward war came from the Turner thesis presented in a speech by college professor Frederick Jackson Turner to the American Historical Society during the Chicago World’s fair in 1893.

In his speech titled “The Frontier in American History” Turner argued that American exceptionalism was rooted in the individualism and self-reliance of the frontier settler. He pointed to a little known U.S. Census Bureau pamphlet that had declared in 1891 that the frontier was now “closed” and there was no more land to conquer and settle. What would happen to the best and most distinctive qualities of the American spirit, Turner asked, if there was nowhere left for Americans to go?²

Although not much attention was paid at the time to the speech, in the first part of the 20th century it became one of the most quoted and important speeches ever made by a historian, influencing politicians, the general public, and the interpretations of countless teachers and historians.

Theodore Roosevelt was certainly influenced. He wrote Turner saying

…I think you have struck some first class ideas and have put into definite shape a good deal of thought which has been floating around rather loosely.⁵

Roosevelt was concerned that peaceful conditions, resulting from the closing of the frontier, would cause a disintegration of the American people’s best and most defining qualities, including courage, stalwartness, and the ability to make good warriors. For people, read men; women were considered to be in an altogether different category by most men, certainly by those of Roosevelt’s social class. His view was echoed by numerous other influential men, including politicians. He corresponded with his friend, Henry Cabot Lodge, on the possibility of a war with Mexico in 1886. Later he wrote to British diplomat Cecil Rice that he would not

“…be sorry to see a bit of a spar with Germany; the burning of New York and a few other seacoast cities would be a good object lesson on the need of an adequate system of coastal defenses. While we would have to take some awful blows at first …⁶

Social Darwinism

This was also the time of Social Darwinism. This
belief, not started or encouraged by Darwin, was originally expounded by philosopher, Herbert Spencer. Essentially, it was a set of elitist ideas that the strongest or fittest would survive and flourish in society, while the weak and unfit would fail and should be allowed to die. It was applied in both natural and moral situations. Some Social Darwinists believed it was morally incorrect to help anyone weaker because that would help the unfit to survive and reproduce.

The philosophy was applied in numerous ways. Militarily, those who were unfit lost wars. Since the casualties on the losing side had been unfit, sorrow over their deaths was unnecessary. Colonial governments, no matter how brutal to their subjects, were justified because they demonstrated fitness by being in charge. Businessmen justified unsafe working conditions, long working days and weeks, low pay, and a refusal to allow labor unions to form, with Social Darwinism. The owners and bosses were clearly the fit and should do as they wanted because they were the owners and bosses. Those who were workers were not as fit and, so, did not deserve consideration. Many considered contributing to relief for the poor unnecessary because they were less fit and help would encourage reproduction. Social Darwinist businessmen claimed to believe in laissez-faire capitalism, forgetting they also wanted government protections, such as tariffs, and benefits for their businesses.

Roosevelt, Lodge, Hearst, and many others such as Andrew Carnegie, used Turner’s view of American character and Social Darwinism in varying degrees to justify their political and business behavior. Roosevelt and Lodge thought promoting and fighting in wars to gain influence or territory was a proper expression of American character and governmental policy.

Chronology of Significant Spanish-American War Events

1868. Cuba began a struggle for independence called The Ten Years’ War. Various movements for independence from Spain continued.
1896. Spain began a reconcentration policy which meant gathering the Cubans into camps without adequate sanitation or food.
US newspapers called for Cuban independence and reported both real and exaggerations of conditions in Cuba.
Both the U.S. House and Senate passed bills supporting the Cuban people.
1897. Both Hearst’s and Pulitzer’s papers printed sensational reports on the Cuban insurrection, fostering anti-Spanish feelings in the United States.
1898. The USS Maine is sent to Cuba. The ship explodes in Havana Harbor on February 15.
April 20: President William McKinley signed the Joint Resolution for war with Spain and the ultimatum was sent to Spain.
April 25: War was formally declared between Spain and the United States.
May 1: Commodore George Dewey defeated the Spanish squadron in Manila Bay, the Philippines Islands. The entire Spanish squadron was sunk, including two cruisers and six gunboats.
May 4: Joint resolution introduced into the House of Representatives, backed by the president, calling for the annexation of Hawaii.
May 10: Captain Henry Glass, commander of the cruiser USS Charleston, ordered to capture Guam.
May 25: The first troops were sent from San Francisco to the Philippine Islands.
June 11: McKinley administration argues “we must have Hawaii to help us get our share of China.”
July 1: The Battle for San Juan Heights won by US and Cuban troops, including the Rough Riders under Teddy Roosevelt.
July 8: U.S. acquired Hawaii.
July 18: The Spanish government initiated a message to suspend hostilities and start negotiations to end the war.
Clara Barton of the Red Cross cared for wounded soldiers at Santiago de Cuba.
September 26: Commission established to investigate mismanagement by US War Department.
1899
January 17: U.S. claims Wake Island for use in cable link to Philippines.
April 11: The Treaty of Paris ending the war with Spain is proclaimed.
1902
July: War is ended in the Philippines, with more than 4,200 US soldiers, 20,000 Filipino soldiers, and 200,000 Filipino civilians dead.
Aftermath of the War
The Spanish American War was the first big move off the North and Central American Continent and thus a turning point in U.S. history, the beginning of American Imperialism. It also was a logical extension of Frederick Turner’s views that ongoing expansion expressed the best of American character, and so could be said to be part of the United States’ manifest destiny.
Business and Strategy
Economic interests played a significant role in the desire for the lands the U.S. gained as a result of the war. However, the role of geostrategists should not be
overlooked. People such as Theodore Roosevelt, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Secretary of State John Hay, and Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan wanted Hawaii, not primarily for business interests in pineapple and sugar cane, but for Pearl Harbor as a naval base. Pearl Harbor would be a major base of operations, when added to the new possessions: Wake Island, Midway, Guam, American Samoa and the Philippines. Puerto Rico and Guantanamo provided bases in the West Indies. America’s security and economic interests in China, Southeast Asia and in the Caribbean Sea would be protected. In addition to the United States, Britain, Germany, and France all assumed control of Pacific Islands. The United States, which had fought to end its status as a colony a little over one hundred years earlier, now joined the other colonial governments. Imperialism arrived as an American policy

Panama Canal

With security now insured on both sides of the Isthmus of Panama, interest revived in building a canal to shorten and make safer travel between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans for trade and naval vessels. Panama was at that time a rebellious province in the north of Colombia. The Colombian legislature refused to agree to a treaty giving the US the right to build and manage a canal, so U.S. Marines joined a Panamanian faction in declaring Panama independent. Roosevelt, now President, immediately recognized the new government and signed a treaty giving the United States a perpetual lease on land for the canal.

Although many historians consider the costs and problems resulting from the expansionist policy greater than the benefits received by the enhanced security and trade, by the beginning of the twentieth century, the United States began to accept responsibility for and play an increasingly greater role in international events.

(Endnotes)

7. This section has been extracted from: “Chronology- The World of 1898: The Spanish American War.”, Hispanic Division, Library of Congress. www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/chronology.html. 09 April 2012.
A Clash of Conviction in North Carolina
The Struggle Over Religion, Politics and Independence
Judith Beaman Scott

A triple headstone with an empty spot next to it marks a grave in the cemetery of Lovejoy Church in Montgomery County, North Carolina. Four men, three of them brothers, are buried there, victims of the War Between the States. They did not die on a famous battlefield or prisoner of war camp, nor of battle wounds or sickness; they died close to their homes, with their hands tied behind their backs. They were murdered.

This is not a story about a war. It’s not about slavery or state’s rights, North versus South, Yankee or Confederate. It is a story of men and women struggling to protect their families and their beliefs in the face of bigotry and persecution.

“They were delivered into the hands of the murderers … they deliberately shot and beat to death … my three sons and Atkins while tied with their hands and handcuffed together.” So wrote Hiram Hulin, father of three of the young men buried in Lovejoy Cemetery.

Hiram and his sons were members of a tight-knit group of families in the Piedmont region of North Carolina, specifically Montgomery and Randolph Counties. The Beaman, Cranford, Hulin, Hurley and Moore families were, for the most part, hard working yeomen farmers trying to support their families on small farms. They were not wealthy and they were not slave owners.

Soon after his inauguration, President Lincoln ordered each state in the Union to provide a quota of soldiers. There was mixed reaction from the states, and some refused to comply. North Carolina had avoided secession while a passionate debate raged, especially in the western part of the state which had a heavy Unionist faction. But the demand for 1,560 soldiers for the Union army was an ultimatum of sorts, and the mandatory call for troops forced North Carolina to make a quick decision.

RALEIGH, April 15, 1861 HON.
SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War
Your dispatch is received, and, if genuine, I have to say in reply that I regard the levy of troops made by the Administration for the purpose of subjugating the States of the South, is in violation of the Constitution and a usurpation of power. I can be no party to this wicked violation of the laws of the country, and to this war upon the liberties of a free people. You can get no troops from North Carolina ...

Governor Ellis called a special session of the legislature in May and the delegates voted to join the Confederate States of America. They also voted not to have a popular vote, as they feared the results. North Carolina seceded on May 20, 1861.

For many citizens the decision to leave the union was made reluctantly. Unfortunately, for a state that was not eager to secede, North Carolina would provide more men for the Confederate cause and suffer the most casualties of any of the southern states.4

When the War began, both sides were sure of a quick victory. Young men rushed to enlist swearing they would be home in no time. The initial enlistment period for the south was one year (although some troops had a six-month term), and three months for the north. After the defeat of the Union at the first battle of Manassas (July 21, 1861) the short term enlistment worked in favor of the Union army. President Lincoln called for 500,000 soldiers to defeat the south and he got them, this time for a three-year enlistment.

As the term of service ran out for the Confederate soldiers, the enlistment rate was not high enough to meet the demand. A series of decisions by the Confederate Congress led to problems that would plague their army until the end of the war. On December 11, the Provisional Congress enacted the Bounty and Furlough Law, which allowed any soldier who reenlisted for three years or the duration of the war, a sixty-day furlough and a fifty-dollar bounty. Men could choose the branch of service and the company they wanted to join, as well as their officers. Even these incentives failed to keep enough of the six-month enlistees in the army. The enlistment period of the 148 regiments with a one-year term would end in April.
1862, causing grave concern for the future. General McClellan, with more than 100,000 Union soldiers, was marching toward Richmond, the Confederate capitol, and he had to be stopped. After the Battle of Shiloh, (April 6-7, 1862) the first national compulsory military service law in the United States, the Confederate Conscription Act of April 1862 was enacted. Men 18-65 were called to service, but any man who could afford to could hire a substitute. There were exemptions for several categories of “essential” workers including government employees, railroad employees and teachers.

So began a series of laws and decisions that led to violence in North Carolina, especially in the counties of the Quaker belt. Later that year the law was amended; the draft age was raised to 45, but men who owned more than 20 slaves were allowed an exemption from service. The soldiers whose term of service was set to expire had to remain in the army for three years from their initial enlistment, preventing a large scale exodus of Confederate soldiers. When the law was enacted, notices appeared in newspapers around the state, hoping to shame men into enlisting. Zebulon Vance, future Governor of the State, posted a notice in a Raleigh newspaper, with the number of men needed for his company. It ended with:

... Men liable to draft in those counties had better come along at once and fill up their companies like white men, and not wait for the sheriff to bring them to me.

Although the law encountered immediate outrage, this and similar notices led to the formation of twenty-three new regiments, as men rushed to enlist before they would be forced into the army. By the war’s end, it is estimated that of the 134,000 men who served North Carolina, about half did so unwillingly, either by conscription or threat of conscription.

There were strong feelings throughout the state that the law violated the states’ rights which many considered the rationale for seceding from the union in the first place. In the Piedmont, where the yeoman farmers would bear the military burden for their area, the outrage was immediate.

Captain Peter Mallett was appointed commander of the North Carolina Conscription Bureau. He quickly gathered trained personnel and set up two Camps of Instruction, Camp Holmes and Camp Hill, to handle the expected surge of “volunteers” and conscripts. The initial conscription law, which allowed soldiers to choose their own officers, resulted in many officers being stripped of their command and rank, which left them open to conscription. These were the men Mallett chose to staff the new organization. State militia units were used to bring in the conscripts. Conscripts were chosen as camp guards; they usually agreed, since it meant they would serve in North Carolina instead of the front lines. The duties of the conscription office were soon expanded to include the round up of deserters.

Soon after the first wave of conscripts was brought to the camps, in July 1862, two hundred men from Camp Holmes overcame their guards and deserted. Mallett wrote to the Governor, reporting 3,000 conscripts in Camp Holmes. He said it was absolutely necessary to have a regiment of Guards in the camp to prevent desertion and, on a daily basis, send men out all over the state to collect the conscripts who refused to comply. The two camps began sending four hundred men a day into battle during the first few months, but it became increasingly difficult to get the conscripts to the camps. Camp Hill was closed in September, as the flow of conscripts dwindled.

On September 13, 1862, as resistance became more obvious, Governor Vance issued General Order No.7, an order that contributed to the violence and death surrounding the deserters and draft evaders, commonly called outliers. The militia was ordered to physically deliver conscripts to Camp Holmes and was given the authority to do so. In a proclamation made that month Vance declared that anyone giving armed resistance to the conscription law was committing treason, and would not escape the penalties of law. Over the course of the war, interpretation of orders like this became the justification for any number of atrocities.

**Adam Crooks and the Wesleyan Methodist Church**

The Piedmont area of North Carolina was home to numerous Dunkards and Moravians, both pacifist religions. The region was referred to as the “Quaker Belt” due to the early influx of Quakers, although many left the state over the slavery issue. The Beaman family of Montgomery County had a strong Quaker heritage. Many of the allied families shared religious convictions and a number of them were members of the Lovejoy Church, a Wesleyan Methodist Church in Montgomery County.

Adam Crooks brought the Wesleyan message to North Carolina; The Wesleyan Methodists split from the Northern Methodist Church over slavery. Crooks arrived in North Carolina in 1847, and by the end of his first year, had established eight congregations.

Crook wrote of the trials he faced.

On the evening of the 11th … I preached in Montgomery County. After the benediction a
couple of notes were given me. One signed by BW Simmons states he has just returned from the courts of Montgomery and Stanley counties, was requested to say to me by many citizens of those counties, that should I attempt to preach at or near Lane’s Chapel in Montgomery County, my person would be in danger, as it is understood in those counties that I am an Abolitionist and Free-Soiler.

Another note accused Crook of being a “wolf in sheep’s clothing, preying upon the minds of the weak and innocent, and inducing them to believe slave-holding is not only an oppression to the slaves, but to all those who do not hold slaves” and threatened that his preaching would ‘bring down vengeance upon the heads of your followers.’

Crooks and fellow minister Jesse McBride were arrested for

...knowingly willingly and unlawfully, with intention to incite insurrection, conspiracy and resistance in the slaves or free negroes, and persons of color within the state, bringing into the State with the intention to circulate, a printed pamphlet named and styled The Ten Commandments the evident tendency of which pamphlet would be and is to incite insurrection, conspiracy and resistance ...

Crooks was acquitted, and continued to preach. A Montgomery County committee gave him an ultimatum to leave North Carolina by February 1. Crooks responded with a letter written at the home of Valentine Moore. Referring to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin as well as the Declaration of Independence he said:

We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal ... With regard to your request ... I cannot comply. ... We have erected two meeting houses this winter, one in Montgomery and one in Randolph County ... we anticipate a visit from our deeply injured but highly esteemed Brother McBride ... at which time we propose holding protracted meetings ...

A rumor reached Crooks that a mob was coming for him at Lovejoy Chapel on Sunday, June 15, 1851, to escort him out of the county. He left his horse at the home of Valentine Moore and walked to church early. Orin and Hiram Hulin and William Hurley were present when four men dragged him from the pulpit. Hurley asked the men what they were planning. “To take him to Troy,” they responded, as Crooks was forcibly pushed into a buggy. Hurley and the Hulins rode alongside while Crooks debated the issue of slavery with his captors. They asked Hurley why he left the Methodist Episcopal Church. He told the men he had always been against slavery, but he wanted to be a member of some church; when the new church was formed he joined. ... “For me to support a thing I don’t believe in would not be right.” When asked if they would allow a slave-holder into their church the answer was no, asked if a slave would be admitted they answered yes. The group told Hurley that if this was what he believed, he should leave the state, to which he replied “I was born and raised here.”

Continual harassment, threats, and confinement in the county jail, led Crooks, reluctantly, to sign a bond agreeing to leave Montgomery County and not preach there again. Instead, the following Saturday and Sunday, he held meetings at Bethel, in Randolph County, about a mile from the county line.

Before leaving Montgomery County, Crooks returned to the home of Valentine Moore to say goodbye. Caroline Moore, daughter of the house and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, told Crook she was leaving her church and ask to be admitted to the Wesleyan Congregation. That decision by Caroline may have set the stage for a bitter tragedy in her life years later.

The names of many of these Montgomery County families are recorded in Wesleyan records over the years leading up to the Civil War. Hulins are there from the beginning. Hurley, Cranford, Moore and Crook are frequently recorded. Jesse Hulin is mentioned several times. Following in Crooks footsteps, Daniel Wilson, Hugh Baker, Hiram Hulin, Jesse Hulin, Nelson Hulin (another son of Hiram), William Hurley Sr., William Hurley Jr., and Spencer Moore were charged with distributing incendiary literature in March, 1860.

Resistance to the Conscription

Family leaders John Beaman, Hiram Hulin and Valentine Moore had deep-felt religious beliefs concerning slavery, but they also believed that this was not their war; they were needed at home to care for their families and work the farms. Another change in the conscription law afforded blacksmiths and mechanics deferments. John Beaman, writing to the Governor, is clear about his opinion of the conscription law.

Mr. Z. B. Vance

Mr. Z. V., gov, I take the present opportunity [sic] of dropping you a few lines to inform you the Condition of my Settlement and our county and the partiality of the Conscript Law tho you [know] the rotest of it and the men that is exempted By it and unles it is repeald you cant
think us conscrs will obey the call that is made
you know the farmer is the life of hour country
and I want you to tell me one farmer exempted
[unless] he has twenty slaves and I want you to
tell me one of them that has any thing to sell that
will sell for confedrt [sic] money … I hav mad
moo corn and mor wheat and more bacon than
any slave holder in the confedret stats for sale,
and I hav dun more smithin than any smith in
hour county–for nothin acordin to my fose and
yet I must go to fight for the seeceders and all
mecanics and men who air dooing no good at tall
at home. Mr. Vance, I want you to send me some
exemptations for I am doing no good at tall for
they want me to go to fight and I am bound not
to go unless all the rest of the black smiths and
manufactors does …

John A. Beaman21

John did not receive his exemption. He and his
brother Abraham Jackson were conscripted into Company
C, 43rd Regiment, North Carolina Infantry on November
23, 1863.22

Resistance to the confederate cause and the draft
took many forms, from Peace Meetings to attacks on
Confederate supporters.23 By1862 most dissension was
centered along the Randolph, Montgomery and Moore
borders. As the war raged on and the conscription laws
became more severe, the citizens of the Piedmont became
more agitated at their unjust treatment.

The number of deserters and draft evaders hiding
in the surrounding woods grew larger. They sometimes
banded together and roamed the surrounding areas
harassing supporters of the Confederacy. Instances of
violence were perpetrated by the outliers as they went
to any length to get food and supplies. Their families
employed numerous tactics to assist them, often using
codes and signals to stay in touch. Some of the men
returned home at night, and hid in the woods during the
day. Women took food and clothing to the men in hiding,
although providing assistance became more difficult as
efforts to find the outliers increased dramatically. Men
were ambushed and killed, homes and barns pillaged and
burned and people tormented, by both sides. The Quaker
Belt had a war of its own.

The Governor sent troops to the area for the first time
in September, 1862. Several hundred men were hiding
in Randolph, Moore and Montgomery Counties. By
January of the following year hundreds of Home Guard
troops, reinforced by regular army soldiers were combing
the area to bring in the outliers, with little success.24
Governor Vance was bombarded by letters from both
sides demanding assistance and giving detailed reports
of abuse.

How Women Were Treated
Clarinda Crook Hulin complained of her treatment
at the hands of the “details” hunting the deserters:

‘ZB Vance governor [sic] of the State of NC Nov the 20

I address you in My pore feeble Maner in the way I
have been treated by the deatails four the army i never
have ben pesterd by the deserters nor conscris nor I hant
herd no tell of it a bein done in the County When my
husband had to leav home he left but little to go upon and
I have three little children to Werke for and I have werk
for ever thing that I have eat and ware and these detail
has bin taken ever mouthful I have got to eat they have
taken the last hog I have wich I have fed every grain
of corn I hav got to [ ] and some of My Clothing and
tuck my Molases and pord them over the flore … pleas
answere this and tell Me what to do25

February 17, 1864. The conscription act was amended
again; “all white men, residents of the Confederate States
between the ages of seventeen and fifty, shall be in the
military service of the Confederate States for the war.”26

Not only were nearly all adult males forced to join
the army, they had to do so for an open ended length of
time. There would be no one left to work the farms of the
Piedmont but women and children. Even soldiers who
had already served their time had to report for duty under
the new law. The 17- year olds and the men 45-50 were
to form Junior and Senior Reserves. The former would
train “on the job” in their home state, and transfer to
regular duty at age 18; adult men who reached 45 would
transfer in to the Senior reserves in their home state until
age 50.27

As more and more men were forced into the army the
families left in the Piedmont were in dire circumstances.
While the men were fighting on the battlefield or in the
woods, their women were fighting battles of their own.
They had to care for the farms and children, defend
themselves from the harassment and abuse of the Home
Guard, and look to the health and safety of the men hiding
in the woods. Some women became very vocal with their
opinions about the intolerable conditions. They wrote
letters, and protested in person,

“… I will now inform you of some of the conduct of
our Militia oficers and Magistrates of this county”, wrote
Phebe Crook from Randolph County.

… thir imployment is hunting Desereters, they say, and the way they Manage to find them
is taking up poore old grey headed fathers who
has a fought in this old War. Some of them has
done thir Duty in trying to suport Both the army
and thir family but these men that has remained
at home ever since the War [   ] are taking them
up and keeping them under gard without a
mouthful to eat for severl days and taking up
the women and keeping them under gard and
Boxing thir jaws and nocking them about as
if they were Bruts and keeping them from thir
little children that they hav almost wore our thir
lifes in trying to make surport for them and some
of thse women is in no fix to leav homes and
others have little suckling infants not More than
2 Months old and they also hav takin up little
children and Hanging them until they turn black
in the face trying to make them tell whear thir
father is When the little children knows nothing
atall about thir fathers thir plea is they hav
orders from the Govenor to do this and they
also say that they hav orders from the govner
to Burn up thir Barns and houses and Destroy
all that they hav got to live on … whereas the
men that has Remained at home ever since the
Ware commenced, take thir guns and go out in
the woods and shoot them down without Halting
them

Yours Truly, Phebe Crook28

Some women took the law into their own hands, and
fought back, often in response to people like J S Patterson,
who refused grain for the women and children. He wrote
the governor, asking whether “as a public miller” he
should grind meal for deserter’s wives and children. He believed there was an order preventing millers from
grinding the meal for these families.29

Several women in Bladen County were convicted
for stealing six sacks of corn and one sack of rice from
a warehouse. They were sentenced to five months
imprisonment. A petition signed by thirty-eight local
men, was sent to the Governor, asking him to pardon the
women. The author says that one of the women, Alice
Tice, sent six sons to the army, and two of the sons and
her husband have died in the war. She has two young
daughters at home. The petitioners believe that the women
“were impelled to this act by hunger and prospective
suffering”, and while they admit the acts were unlawful
they don’t believe the women meant to do anything other
than feed themselves.30

The troops hunting the deserters believed they had
the law behind them as they hunted, tortured and abused
the women to get to the men. Even citizens opposed
to the deserters were appalled by the behavior toward
women and wrote to government officials reporting
the abuse. The female relatives of the outliers became
targets of the Home Guard. A foray into the mountain
area of North Carolina, after a well-known Unionist Bill
Shelton resulted in his wife hung by the neck until she
nearly strangled; when she agreed to talk they let her
down, and when she again refused her thumbs were put
between two fence rail while someone sat on them to
apply pressure until she talked. (This was a commonly
used method of torture against the women.) That same
day, a baby was laid on the ground in the snow, its mother
tied to a tree and told it would stay there until she gave
them the information they wanted. Thirteen men and
boys of the Shelton group were captured, and executed
two days later.31

Tomas Settle, sent by the Governor to investigate the
rumors of abuse and torture, reported the veracity of the
stories. He told the governor numerous women had been
dragged from their homes and kept captive for weeks,
resulting in abortion for some of the pregnant women.

As the war continued, weary women became more
vocal, often encouraging their men to desert. Martha
Cranford Sheets threatened the Montgomery County
sheriff in 1865, demanding grain for her family:

… There you have got all your sons at home and
when my husband is gone … You nasty old whelp you
have told lyes to get your suns out of this war and you
don’t care for the rest that is gone nor for their families.
Now you can depend if you don’t bring that grain to my
dore you will suffer and that bad”32

Martha was arrested for writing the letter.

Conflicts between neighbors and friends became
more common. The desertion rate was so high that
Governor Vance sent Confederate troops into the region
three more times to assist the Home Guard ferret out the
outliers. Violence escalated in several areas of North
Carolina; more men and boys killed; more women
tortured and even raped.

Harassment of the Hulin Family

In September of 1864, Caroline Moore Hulin was
attacked by Home Guard troops. The Hulin family had
three men in the woods, one of them Caroline’s husband.
Jesse Overton was indicted in 1865 for Assault and
Battery, a case which dragged on for years.

Under Special Commission began and held for the
County of Montgomery at the Courthouse in Troy on the
2nd Monday in Nov 1865 The jurors for the State, upon
their oath present That Martin Overton with force and
arms, at and in the County of Montgomery on the 1st of
September 1864 in and upon the body of Caroline Hulin


in the name of God and the state then and there being, an assault did make, and the said Caroline Hulin then and there did beat, wound and ill treat, contrary to law and against the peace and dignity of the state.\footnote{33}

Overton justified the “alleged assault” by saying he was in the Home Guard hunting deserters, acting under orders. The Hulin family was subjected to continual harassment by the Home Guard; attacks on Hiram and his wife, and other family members became commonplace.

Finally, on January 28, 1865, a little more than two months before Lee surrendered to Grant, an unimaginable scene was played out in Montgomery County. In the woods, with a dusting of snow on the ground, their hands tied, the tumult in Montgomery County culminated in the cold blooded murder of four young men: Jesse Hulin, John Hulin, William Hulin and James Atkins, three brothers and their cousin.\footnote{34} Their deaths affected the entire area as the four men were related to most of the local families.

Hiram Hulin loaded the four bodies into a wagon and carried them to their church, Lovejoy, where their blood stained the old wooden floor. They were buried in a common grave.\footnote{35}

Hiram Hulin wrote to Col. M. Cogwell, Commander of the U.S. Post at Fayetteville, in North Carolina:

\textit{September 28, 1867}

\textit{Sir,}

Permit me to address a line to you in which I ask your opinion of the course proper to be pursued in regard to the arrest and trial of certain persons who in the time of the war murdered my three sons Jesse, John, and William Hulin and also James Atkins who were evading the military service in the Confederate Army; after arresting them they took them before two Justices of the Peace for trial. From the only information which we can get the Justices committed them to jail. They were delivered into the hands of the murderers who were home-guard troops and while on their way to the pretended prison they deliberately shot and beat to death with guns and rocks my three sons and Atkins while tied with their hands and handcuffed together. One Henry Plott now residing in the County of Cabarrus was the officer in command of the squad of murderers at the time the murder was committed. Most of the murderers were strangers to the people of the County and their names are entirely unknown to us except one George W. Sigler who now resides quietly in Marshall County, Mississippi. Against him a bill has been found by the Grand-jury of this County. His Post office is Byhala about 16 miles from Holly Springs, Mississippi. I have informed the State Solicitor of his where abouts and nothing is done for his arrest. Permit me to pray you in the name of my departed sons to lend aid of the Military force of the government to arrest and bring to trial the felonious murderer. I beseech you by all the paternal feelings which a father should hold for a son to lend us aid in this matter.

We would earnestly commend that you arrest Henry Plott as so-called Captain in the Confederate Army in command of the murderous squad and that he be held in custody till he reveals the names of the remainder of the murderers. Henry Plott was heard to say soon after the murder “we caught four,” and the question was asked, “what did you do with them?” Answer “we put them up a spout.” “Did you kill them?” “Yes we did.” All the facts above stated can be proved by the best of testimony.

You will please inform us by your earliest convenience what course you can take in [this] matter and what it may be necessary for us to do in the premises. With Great respect I am sir

Your Obedient servant  

Hiram Hulin\footnote{36}

While there were indictments for the murder of the four men, no record of any convictions has been found.

There is no one clear-cut reason for the response to the secession and war in the Piedmont; there were many reasons for the citizens of Montgomery County to avoid and refute the war. Not all of the dissenters were abolitionists. Not all of the Unionists were outliers or deserters. A combination of their heritage, religious convictions, financial circumstances, and the independent nature of these men and women led to this little known chapter in our history. As with any war the answers are never simple.

What is clear, though, is that many widows and orphans were made in Montgomery County during those years. Some of their husbands and fathers died on a well-known battlefield, some in hospitals, and prisoner of war camps, and some died close to home.

(Endnotes)

2. The author is a descendant of the Beaman, Cranford, Hurley and Moore families.
sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/civil-war/1861/april/call-for-volunteers.htm: accessed 5 January 2012).
6. Ibid., 23
7. Ibid., 23, xv
8. Ibid., 20-30
9. Ibid., 34
10. Ibid., 41
11. Ibid., 46
14. Ibid., 48
15. Ibid., 73
16. Ibid., 92
17. Ibid., 100
18. Ibid., 91-96
21. John Beaman to Gov Vance, letter, undated; Box 171, Nov. 20-24, 1863, Governors’ Papers, Z.B. Vance, Correspondence, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh. The conscription law was amended in September or October 1862. All letter quoted are transcribed using the original spelling and punctuation.
24. Ibid., 73
26. Hilderman, They Went Into the Fight Cheering
27. Ibid. 167
28. Phebe Crook to Governor Vance, letter, 15 September, 1864; box 180, folder Sept 15-19, Governor Papers, Z.B.Vance, Correspondence; North Carolina State Archive, Raleigh.
29. J.S. Patterson to Governor Vance, letter, 15 June 1863; folder June 15-17 1865, Governors’ Papers, Z.B. Vance, Correspondence; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
30. Petition to Governor Vance, letter, 13 April 1864, Governors’ Papers, Z.B. Vance, Correspondence, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
34. The scene according to a family account. See Renegade South for details of and from family members. http://renegadesouth.wordpress.com/2009.
35. The original Lovejoy Church burned in a1920 fire, but the legend of the bloodstains remains part of church history. Sometime before the 1990s a new headstone was put in place for the Hulin brothers. No one knows what happened to the old marker, and there is none for Atkins.
36. Renegade South, “Hiram Hulin to Governor Vance, 28 September 1867”, (http://renegadesouth.wordpress.com: accessed 10 June 2011). A special thanks to Victoria Bynum for leading me to this story. I ran across her book, Unruly Women, some years ago. In that, and her subsequent book, The Long Shadow of the Civil War, she discusses these families and the “inner civil war”.
While researching for a client in the Clackamas County Records Office I became frustrated with trying to locate records. They have huge filing cabinets, microfiche indexes found in various places and computer indexes and databases. Just as I was finishing up with my work, I asked the other desk clerk if they had some type of guide to the records. She provided me with the following list of the marriage records. Then I decided to create a list of the microfiche and microfilms for all records, in hopes that it will help others researching in this facility. The list does not include the vast collection of land and property records. It may be a little difficult to follow, but I hope it will make researching in this office less frustrating. Furthermore, it may enlighten you as to the records located there that are open for public use. There is some discussion of digitizing this collection.

Marriage Information
1853 to July 1973
Index: on reel
License: on reel

July 1973 to 1982
Index: on microfiche in bottom drawer of filing cabinet
License: on reel

1983-1988
Index: on microfiche on the round spindle
License: on microfiche in the file cabinet by year

1989-1996
Index: in the imaging program on computer
License: on microfiche in the file cabinet by year

1997-1999
Index: in the imaging program on computer
License: on microfiche in bottom drawer of filing cabinet

2000-present
Index: in the marriage licenses on computer
License: in the marriage license program on computer

Microfilm and Microfiche Collection

Marriage Films
No # Index for Marriages 1853-1912 spacer
Covering books 1-16 is in book form on top of film cabinets. Indexes from that point on are at the front of each book on film.

No # Clackamas County Marriage Records
Book 1 1-208 30 May 1853
23 July 1864
Book 2 1-408 24 July 1864
5 March 1879
Book 3 1-328 11 March 1879
16 June 1885
Book 4 1-340 11 July 1885
29 February 1892 Reel M 1a

Clackamas County Probate Records
Marriage Index A-Z, Refers to Marriage Books 4 and 5
Book 2 June 1885 December 1890

#1 Book 1 1-270 16
May 1901 20 March 1963
#2 Book 5 1-434 27
February 1892 14 November 1894
Book 6 1-480
14 November 1894 30 October 1897
#3 Book 7 1-480
13 November 1897 29 August 1900
Book 8 1-500
30 August 1900 12 May 1903
#4 Book 9 1-400
16 May 1903 5 January 1900
Book 10 1-400
10 January 1905 25 July 1906
#5 Book 11 1-400
25 July 1906 11 October 1900
Book 12 1-400
11 October 1907 28 November 1908
#6 Book 13 1-400
1 December 1908 9 December 1909
Book 14 1-400
9 December 1909 9 November 1910
#7 Book 15 1-404 9
November 1910 25 October 1911  
Book 16  1-400  
25 October 1911  13 August 1912  
#8 Book 17  1-404  
13 August 1912  19 August 1913  
Book 18  1-408  
11 August 1913  6 July 1915  
#9 Book 19  1-404  
8 July 1915  16 April 1917  
Book 20  1-400  
17 April 1917  7 November 1918  
#10 Book 21  1-412  
14 November 1918  1 June 1920  
Book 22  1-412  
1 June 1920  17 August 1921  
#11 Book 23  1-416  
18 August 1921  9 April 1923  
Book 24  1-414  
10 April 1924  4 October 1924  
#12 Book 25  1-396  
6 October 1924  5 June 1926  
Book 26  1-398  
29 May 1926  1 December 1927  
#13 Book 27  1-405  
2 December 1927  27 July 1929  
Book 28  1-603  
2 August 1929  18 April 1932  
#14 Book 29  1-624  
23 April 1932  26 August 1935  
Book 30  1-608  
27 August 1935  9 August 1938  
#15 Book 31  1-557  
31 August 1938  16 July 1941  
Book 32  1-612  
18 July 1941  24 August 1944  
#16 Book 33  1-608  
24 August 1944  15 August 1946  
Book 34  1-608  
17 August 1946  21 June 1948  
#17 Book 35  1-600  
14 June 1948  17 January 1950  
Book 36  1-600  
18 January 1950  20 October 1951  
#18 Book 37  1-600  
20 October 1951  2 July 1953  
Book 38  1-608  
2 July 1953  8 March 1955  
#19 Book 39  1-604  
11 March 1955  14 September 1956  
Book 40  1-604  
14 September 1956  23 May 1958  
#20 Book 41  1-604  
23 May 1958  30 November 1959  
Book 42  1-603  
30 November 1959  18 April 1961  
#21 Book 43  1-602  
19 April 1961  22 June 1962  
Book 44  1-601  
19 June 1962  1 July 1963  
#22 Book 45  1-604  
1 July 1963  9 July 1964  
Book 46  
10 July 1964  11 June 1965  
#23 Book 47  1-607  
14 June 1965  2 May 1966  
Book 48  1-613  
2 May 1966  19 January 1967  
#24 Book 49  1-615  
19 January 1967  1 November 1967  
Book 50  1-608  
1 November 1967  12 July 1968  
#25 Book 51  1-608  
15 July 1968  11 March 1969  
Book 52  1-600  
11 March 1969  24 September 1969  
#26 Book 53  1-600  
Book 54  1-604  
25 May 1970  24 November 1970  
#27 Book 55  1-604  
25 November 1970  9 July 1971  
Book 56  1-604  
9 July 1971  31 December 1971  
#28 Book 57  1-604  
31 December 1971  19 July 1972  
Book 58  1-604  
19 July 1972  8 January 1973  
#29 Book 59  1-604  
8 January 1973  5 July 1973  

Marriage Records Book 60 through Book 65 are on Diazo film and are stored in a separate cabinet.  
5 July 1973  31 December 1977  
They are indexed on microfiche located in the same drawer as the microfilms 1-29.  

Microfiche  
Bride Index: 5 July 1973 - 31 December 1978  
Groom Index: 5 July 1973 - 31 December 1978  
Bride Index: 1 January 1976  30 June 1978
The microfiche index for the years 1973 through 1990 are on a spindle between the computers. These are combined indexes for all Clackamas County Records for these years. The marriages are identified within these records by the word marriage. There are two computer indexes for the remaining years, one for 1989 through 1999 and one for 2000 to present.

Diazo Negative File
#30 Book 60 1-840 1973
   27 October 1974
#31 Book 60 841 25 March 1974 through
   Book 61 1-702 28 October 1974
#32 Book 61 703 28 August 1974 through
   Book 62 1-573 5 August 1975
#33 Book 62 574 6 August 1975 through
   Book 63 1-412 14 April 1976
#34 Book 63 413 15 April 1976 through
   Book 64 1-235 26 November 1976
#35 Book 64 236 29 November 1976 through
   Book 64 938 20 June 1977
#36 Book 64 939 21 June 1977 through
   Book 65 1-717 30 December 1977
#37 Book 65 718 December 1977
#38 Book 65 934 31 December 1977

Clackamas County Marriage Returns
#38 s/w 78-1e/w 78-731 20 September 1978
#39 s/w 78-732 8 September 1978 e/w
   79-286 3 May 1979
#40 s/w 79-287 May 1979 e/w
    79-1007 October 1979
   #41 s/w 79-1008 16 October 1979 e/w
   #42 s/w 80-399 June 1980 e/w 80-1399
   9 December 1980
   #43 s/w 80-1400 9 December 1980 e/w
   81-699 13 July 1981
   #44 s/w 81-700 14 July 1981 e/w 81-1517
   21 December 1981
   #45 s/w 81-1518 December 1981 e/w 82-828
   21 July 1982
   #46 s/w 82-829 e/w 1677
   1982 Incomplete list in front.
   #47 s/w 83-1 6 January 1983 e/w 83-916
   11 August 1983
   #48 s/w 83-917 15 August 1983 e/w 83-970
   31 August 1983

Reel 14 Outside Marriages Index
2 January 1973 through January 1976 January 1976
through March 1981

The following are mixed entries for Ministers who registered to perform marriages.
Reel 13 Ministerial Authority Marriages S/w 78
Reel 14 Ministerial Authority Marriages
S/w 81-22 16 January 1981 e/w 84-68
28 December 1984

Additional Microfilms and Microfiche Indexes

Military Discharge Records 1942
Index: on spindle
Records: on three microfilms for Discharge books 28, 29 and 30

Clackamas County Miscellaneous Records
No # Clackamas Miscellaneous Records – are at counter
Adoptions, Physicians, Nurses, Ministerials, and Outside Marriages
73-907 through 78-168 11 October 1973 28 February 1978

MA #1 Clackamas County, Diazo Cabinet
Notary Public Book 9, Pages 1-52
Physicians and Surgeons Book 2, Pages 1-53
Articles of Incorporation Book 5, Pages 223-96
Mining Claims Book 5, Pages 1-76
Ministerial Authority Book 2, Pages 1-110
Mechanic Lien Book 30, Pages 1-25

Clackamas County Notary Public Book 8

Clackamas Lease Book 8

Clackamas County Assumed Business Names Book 10, Pg. 429 to Book 11 Pg. 371

Clackamas County Assumed Business Certificates Book 11, Film old, tears, hand roll

Clackamas County Assumed Business Names Book 12, Pg. 372 thru end

Clackamas County Assumed Business Names Book 13, only label is on the film

Comm. Journal 62 (731) to 64 (14)

Clackamas County Mechanics Liens Books – each book is on one microfilm
Book 20 thru (400) to 21 (1-850)
Book 23
Book 24
Book 25
Book 26
Book 27
Book 28 pg. 1-949
Book 29

Clackamas Chattells Mortgage Books – each book is on one microfilm
Book 52 pg. 484 to Book 53 Pg. 639
Book 53 pgs. 540-850
Book 54
Book 55

Clackamas County Clerk Reel Co. 1AB Miscellaneous Early Records
Mechanics Lien Record 5 February
1932 23 June 1938
Mining Claims 2 July 1875
8 December 1919
Woman’s Separate Property Rights 2
December 1909
Board of Equalization 30
August 1905 22 September 1913
Deeds to County Owned Land 6 August 1909

29 July 1957
Misc. #1 Book 30 1-502 October 1958 Book 2 1-502
Misc. #5 Book 2 1-626 September 1959 1892
1908

Next five films have illegible pages listed at beginning.
Misc. #11 Book 15 1-749 December 1945
December 1945
Misc. #12 Book 16 1-750 February 1947
1940 1941
Misc. #13 Book 17 1-750 March
1943
Misc. #14 Book 18 1-752 April 1944
May 1944

Misc. #15 Book 19 1-752
1945
February 1947
March
Misc. #16 Book 20 1-750
April 1948
April
Misc. #17 Book 21 1-752
July 1949
July
Misc. #18 Book 22 1-750
October 1950
October 1950
Book 23 1-566
January 1952
January 1952
Book 24 1-754
April 1953
Book 25 1-454
455-750
Book 25 1-754
Book 26 1-750
Book 27 1-390
Book 27 391-750
Book 28 1-754
Book 30 504-854
Genealogical Forum of Oregon

The Bulletin

June 2012 Volume 61 No. 4 Page 28

Clackamas County Mortgages – there are many drawers of microfilms for Deeds
Roll M-001  s/w Vol. A, Page1  1860
e/w Vol. C, Page 148  1870
Includes Vol. A, B, C
Deed Book R6C6
Deed Book 698, Pages 890-950
Deed Book 699, Pages 1-133
Mortgages Book 658, Pages 572-790
Misc. Book 35, Pages 854-857
Discharge Book 30, Pages 943-944
Power of Attorney Book 8, Page 629
Mining Claim Book 5, Page 77
Mechanic’s Lien Book 30, Pages 26-32
Lease Book 8, Pages 493-494
Water Rights Book 2, Page 795  67-1 through 67-1217

Direct Mtg. Index 1955-1960

Clackamas County Indirect Deed Index Oregon City,
OR,  RGC6 77A-140, Reel IDI 10
#1 Vol. 1 “Br” Pg. 50 1941
#2 Vol. 2 “Jo” Pg. 11 1946

Clackamas County Indirect Deed Index Oregon City,
OR,  RGC6 77A-140, Reel IDI 11
#1 Vol. 2 “Jo” Pg. 11 1946
#2 Vol. 3 “Sm” Pg. 35 1946

Clackamas County Completion Notices Book 21 Pgs.
1-850

Clackamas County Completion Notices Book 22

Clackamas County Bill of Sale Book 5

Clackamas County Instruments 68-10157 to 68-11882

Clackamas County Instruments 75-20120 to 75-21797,
24 July 1975 to 6 August 1975, Reel 131

Clackamas County Water Rights Index I-II Sept. 1914
to 1967 Reel M#9
Current Aug. 1966 to July 1976
Book 1 pg. 1-501, Sept. 1914 to May 1957

Clackamas County Certificates of Water Rights
Book 2 pg. 233-794

Tax Warrants
Roll CLR/TW 1 Lien Instruments 1977 through 1983
Roll CLR/TW2 Lien Instruments 1983
Distraint Warrants
Roll CLR/DW1 1974-1983
Roll CLR/DW2 1983-1987
Roll CLR/DW3 1987-1989
Commissioners Records by Subjects and Orders
Clackamas County Clerk Audits Aud1 s/w 1917
e/w 1980
Clackamas County Clerk Budgets s/w 1924
Clackamas County Copy Work
Microfilms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
When the 1940 census first became available, I, like many people my age, wanted to see my name in a U. S. census for the first time. Luckily, I had my exact address in Portland, Oregon, so after gleaning the correct Enumeration District, I found little 2-year-old Bonita J. Scott with her parents, William and Irene, on page 6 of 20 of ED 37-463 at 721 N. Holland St.

Next, I decided to look for my aunt and uncle who also lived in north Portland on North Borthwick Street, the same house where my family later moved in 1941. I didn’t know the house number this time, so it was slower going, but I did remember the cross streets. When I found the house in the census, my aunt and uncle were not there. Oh well, I thought, I’ll just wait until the census is indexed and try again.

But when I glanced back, my eyes landed on another entry. Here were my beloved Mr. and Mrs. Paries, the neighbors I remembered so fondly. Suddenly I was 4 years old again, running to Mr. Paries when I saw him, hearing him say, “Oh, here’s Little Bo Peep” and inviting me into their kitchen to select an orange from a big bowl. Or, I would spot Mrs. Paries tending her large garden and always, seemingly, happy to see me. While many children have their “blankies” that they refuse to part with, I, instead, had a little stuffed elephant made by Mrs. Paries. I called him “Jerky” (no, I have no idea why) and he went with me everywhere. Even after my family moved away, “Jerky” came back to Mrs. Paries for a new coat, as you can imagine how worn the first one became.

Now, for the first time I saw their surname in print and realized they also had first names, which I had never heard. Even my parents only called them Mr. and Mrs. Paries. So with this new information, I began looking for more about these special people in my memory. I have no photo of them; I can’t really see their faces anymore, but this I do know. Mr. and Mrs. Paries were African American, the only black people I had ever seen in my young life and the only black people living on our North Portland block. Prior to WW II, there were only 2,000 black residents in Portland, mostly railroad workers.²

In the 1940 census, Prince Paries is 61 years of age, born in Union Town, Alabama, and working as a railroad porter 56 hours a week for which he received $1,080 in 1939. He had completed the third grade. His wife, Dolly, is 57, born in 1883 in Tennessee and was engaged in “housework”. She had completed eight years of schooling. They owned their home at 4615 N. Borthwick and had been in the same house since April 1, 1935.

The 1930 census revealed even more information about the Paries.³ They are again shown as owning their home with a value of $4,000. Prince Paries says both his parents were born in Alabama, and Dolly says her father was born in North Carolina and her mother in Tennessee. Prince, 48, is a porter on a Pullman car and Dolly, 46, is a checker in a hotel. The address of their home is shown as 975 N. Borthwick. (The same house as in 1940, but Portland renumbered their houses in 1931).⁴

In this census, Dolly’s father, Burrel Williams, is living with them. Burrel, age 79, was born in North Carolina.
about 1851 and says both his parents were born in North Carolina also.

The 1920 census has the Paries living at the same Borthwick address and they are again listed as owners. Both say they can read and write; Prince is a porter on a train and Dolly is not working. This time, a niece, Idris Williams, age 14, is living with them. A single man named Anderson Jones, also a porter for the train, is lodging with them.

Their home could well accommodate the extra residents. According to Portland Maps, it was built in 1907 and has over 2000 sq. ft with two full bathrooms. Google maps provide a current photo of the home with its wide front porch and lovely architecture.

In a purely coincidental incident, I visited the Paries home again in the late 1990’s. As a driver for Project Linkage, I was asked to deliver Christmas gifts to the elderly and was shocked when I arrived at the assigned address to find myself in my old neighborhood. The lovely lady of the house said that she remembered the Paries and her daughter happened to live next door at my old residence. The daughter took me through her home, but there was little I could remember except for the general layout. What fun!

Other documents I found are Prince Paries’ draft registrations for both the first and second world wars. The September 1918 document shows him living at 290 Larraba in Portland with his wife Dolly. He gave his age as 37 and his birth date as January 28, 1881. The WW II registration has them at the Borthwick address. This time he states he is 63 and born January 1, 1879. He says he works for the Pullman Company at Union Depot in Portland, Oregon.

But it was old Oregonian articles that really tugged at my heart. A 1909 ad placed by Prince Paries in the “Situations Wanted” column has him asking for a position of “Porter or janitor work for a private family” stating he has references. Perhaps it was that ad that got him his job as porter for the Pullman Company, a position he held all his working life. (Later, when I secured both his and Dolly’s death certificates, it appears they both arrived in Portland in 1909, but I have been unable to find them in the 1910 U.S. census.)

Dolly appears to have been socially involved with her community. In 1912, she entered her dog, aptly named Prince, in the Portland Kennel Club show winning third place in the Novice Dog class. In 1931, she was president of the Oregon chapter of the National Association of Colored Women and hosted that group’s national president for a two-day meeting in Portland.

Last are the obituaries of both Prince and Dolly. Dolly died on 18 January, 1951, and Prince died 22 June the same year. I recall visiting Dolly at the Borthwick address shortly before her death. She was bedridden, but seemed so pleased to see my aunt and me.

I wish this story could be free of prejudice, but it isn’t. The obituaries and census records list no children for the Paries, yet I remember children playing at their home. Perhaps they were children of friends or nieces and nephews. I’ll never know because my mom would not allow me to play with them. The rationale for her fear is unknown, but what it did was instill the same fear of
young black people in me, which has been surprisingly hard to overcome.

As I continued to read the obituaries, tears began streaming down my face. All these years my dear Mr. and Mrs. Paries have been buried in the Rose City Cemetery, less than a mile from where I have lived for 46 years. I pass by there at least once a week. Next time, I intend to stop and visit these old friends. “Little Bo Peep” might be turning 75 this year, but she will never forget these kind people who gave her oranges and her favorite stuffed animal.

Note: I found Mr. and Mrs. Paries graves and paid my respects on a rainy spring day. Although the little elephant I took doesn’t quite look like Jerky, he at least did his best to represent the original.

Graves of Prince and Dolly Paries, Rose City Cemetery, NE Fremont, Portland, OR, 24 April 2012

(Endnotes)

5. “Fourth Registration Draft Cards (WWII); State Headquarters: Oregon; Records of the Selective Service System”; Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com : 11 Apr 2012).Citing NARA Record Group Number: 147; Archive Number: 563991; Box Number: 96.
7. Oregonian, 5 Apr 1912
8. Oregonian, 26 July 1931
9. Oregonian, 20 Nov 1909
10. Oregonian, 26 July 1931
Written in Stone

A Civil War Veteran’s Final Journey
Carol Ralston Surrency

Oregon almost certainly had the distinction of experiencing the last Civil War burial on April 13, 2012, when Peter J. Knapp was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery. Knapp, a three-time Post Commander in the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Union Army veterans), died in Kelso, Washington on April 13, 1924. Following a funeral in Kelso, he was taken to Portland Crematorium, now Wilhelm’s Portland Memorial. There his ashes remained for eighty-eight years on a shelf in a non-public area. In 1930, his wife passed away, and her cremains were placed next to his.¹

Peter Knapp was born in Ohio in 1842, and was farming in Iowa when he joined the 5th Iowa Volunteer Infantry in 1861.² He fought under Fremont in Missouri, surviving Typhoid, and was at the Battle of Luka in Mississippi, where his regiment lost more than half of its 440 men.³ He was with Grant’s men at Vicksburg and Shiloh. At the battle of Missionary Ridge in November, 1863, he was captured by Confederate troops, and sent to the infamous Andersonville prison camp in Georgia where he remained for almost a year. Over thirteen thousand prisoners perished at Andersonville, and Knapp saw nine men captured with him die while he was there. In October, 1864, Knapp along with two hundred and fifty others agreed to enlist in the Confederate Army in order to escape Andersonville. Called galvanized soldiers, they were taken to Mississippi where they were given muskets and some ammunition just before the battle. When an opportunity arose, they threw down their weapons and surrendered to the Union forces. Initially considered deserters, they were sent to a Union prison camp in Alton, Illinois but after General Benjamin Grierson recommended leniency and, with publicity about the appalling conditions at Andersonville, they were allowed to enlist in the 5th U.S. Infantry. ⁴ Knapp served on the western frontier until 1866, rising to the rank of Sergeant. ⁵ After completing his service, Knapp married and moved to Kelso where he worked in the lumber business and was active in the GAR and other civic activities.

In 1921, Knapp had an unusual reminder of his Civil War experience. National headlines across the country told the story of a seventy-eight year old Confederate veteran in Alabama, who began coughing violently until, suddenly, something flew out of his mouth. It was a bullet. When Knapp, in Kelso, read the story about this ex-soldier being shot in the eye at Vicksburg, he realized that it must have been his bullet that hit Willis Meadows. Under fire at Vicksburg from a Confederate sniper, Knapp saw a large piece of sheet metal with a small hole in it and, assuming that was where the shots were coming from, he stealthily made his way to the sheet metal, aimed his gun through the hole and fired, hitting the sniper in the eye. Union doctors probed for the bullet that took Meadow’s right eye, but were not able to recover it and it remained in his head until the coughing fit. After seeing the news story, Knapp wrote a letter to Meadows and they corresponded until their deaths.

Alice Knapp of Nehalem, who married the great-great-great-nephew of Peter Knapp, was a frustrated genealogist who could not find where her husband’s great-great-great Uncle was buried. On Find A Grave, she discovered his obituary, which told her he had been cremated at Portland Memorial and a phone call revealed that his ashes, together with his wife’s, were still there. Advocacy on the part of Alice Knapp and others resulted in a decision by the Oregon Military Department to bury...
Peter Knapp with full military honors on the eighty-eighth anniversary of his death. That the country is remembering the Civil War during the sesquicentennial made the event even more significant.

Several hundred people turned out for the service at Willamette National Cemetery, including Knapp family members, Civil War re-enactors, members of the Sons and Daughters of the Civil War organizations, representatives of the Oregon Army National Guard, Patriot Guard motorcycle riders, and other interested observers. The ashes of Peter Knapp and his wife arrived in a hearse driven down a road lined with more than one hundred Patriot Guard riders carrying flags, and the boxes containing the ashes were placed on a table inside the enclosure. The ceremony itself continued the blend of old and new with comments by officers of the National Guard, a sketch of Knapp’s life presented by a representative of the Washington Sons of Union Veterans and a funeral oration from the 1873 GAR Burial of the Dead manual, given by the Chaplain of the Edward D. Baker Camp of Sons of Union Veterans. During the ceremony, a piper played “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”, “Amazing Grace”, and “Going Home”, all songs representative of the Civil War. Ladies dressed in Victorian mourning clothes sat solemnly at one side. At the conclusion of the flag ceremony, a bugler played “Taps” on a Civil War era bugle, followed by a 21-shot volley by re-enactors firing single-shot Springfield rifles. At the end of the ceremony, Alice Knapp, the genealogist who started this journey into the past, was presented with the folded flag by Oregon Army National Guard soldiers. And, so, Peter Knapp is finally laid to rest and his memory given the respect he so well deserves.

(Endnotes)

2. Ibid.
5. Ibid
When the Spanish American War was over and the Spanish fleet destroyed, the American Ambassador in England, John Hay, wrote to his friend, Theodore Roosevelt, “From start to finish, it’s been a splendid little war!” In only four months of fighting, the U.S. had lost only 460 soldiers, in contrast to the Civil War, in which tens of thousands were sometimes killed in a single day. After the trials and tribulations of the Revolutionary War and the embarrassments of the War of 1812, the country seemed to be seeking an easy war in which American ingenuity in technology would prevail. President James Polk thought he had found it in the Mexican War of 1846-1848.

When American mail, arriving in London late in May 1846, brought England its first word of the outbreak of the Mexican War, the Times noted that the U.S. Army had only 7,200 men as compared with the Mexican Army’s 32,000 and was, in many ways, unprepared for war. The Times editorial writer noted that the “conquest of a vast region by a state which is without an army” would be “a novelty in the history of nations”.¹

A soldier’s job is to fight his nation’s battles and, between 1790 and 1860, American soldiers had many opportunities to do just that. There were Indians to fight in the Old Northwest, in Florida, and many locations west of the Mississippi River. There were British to fight from 1812 to 1815, and Mexicans from 1846 to 1848 (and even earlier, if the Texas skirmishes count). There were even occasional instances of soldiers being mobilized to fight their fellow Americans – in Utah and in Kansas – in the late 1850s. The Civil War was to be the culmination of a developing military tradition which began in Mexico.²

One man who exemplified the transition from the Mexican War to the end of the Civil War was Ulysses S. Grant.

In 1843, Grant had just graduated from the Military Academy at West Point and was proudly wearing his uniform while on leave back home in Ohio. Seeing the uniform, a barefoot boy began making fun of Grant, saying he must have entered the army because he was too lazy to work in an honest job.³ Grant graduated 20th in a class of 41. He scored 10th in mathematics, 41st in French, 22nd in chemistry, and 19th in drawing, but was best known for his horsemanship. He made many lifetime friends at the academy, including several who became Civil War Generals, James Longstreet, Rufus Ingalls, and Frederick Steele.

There was a popular myth, promoted by Southern historians, that Grant stood lowest in his class, but this was inaccurate. He stood approximately in the middle, higher than the following: Jefferson Davis (to be the Secretary of War and later the President of the Confederacy), Joseph Hooker, James Longstreet (Lee’s right-hand man), Winfield Scott Hancock, George A. Custer, George Pickett, John B. Hood, Philip Sheridan, Hunter Liggett, and Robert L. Bullard. Only slightly ahead of Grant was Thomas Jackson, better known as

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“Stonewall” Jackson.

Soon after graduation, Grant was commissioned brevet (provisional) second lieutenant in the 4th Infantry Regiment. In 1845, Congress voted to annex Texas and Grant was promoted to second lieutenant. By 1846, he was named a part of the force under Brevet Brigadier General Zachary Taylor and began service near the Rio Grande River. He fought in the battle of Palo Alto and began the first assault on Monterey and, eventually, on the siege of Mexico City. During this time, he served with and got to know many officers he would later command or fight against during the Civil War. In 1846, he was promoted to regimental quartermaster and commissary as the assault on Monterrey was ongoing.4

Besides mathematics (for which he was offered a teaching position at West Point), Grant excelled in horsemanship. One historian noted that, in the Imperial Riding School in Vienna, he was shown in a posted list of record high jumps by horsemen anywhere. The jump of Cadet Grant at West Point on York, a horse reputed to have been generally considered unmanageable, held the world’s record for at least 25 years.5

Grant studied the administration, strategy and tactics of his commanding officer, Zachary Taylor during the Mexican War. He had noted that, in 1844, after his graduation from West Point, regular U.S. Army officers usually spent their professional careers preparing for conventional warfare against European style armies. This was a contrast with the post-war U.S. Army duties against Indians and Mexicans. The American frontier was unlike European battlefields.

He was also aware that war with Mexico offered the rare opportunity for martial glory against “civilized” opponents, and compensation from the boredom of peacetime service in isolated frontier posts. In addition, the Mexican war promised higher pay and rapid promotion along with the glory. Although Grant did not use this phrase, it was a prototype for what would later be called a “splendid little war”.6

Grant realized, what General Zachary Taylor and the co-commander, Major General Winfield Scott soon discovered, that the Mexican field forces, while more numerous, were inferior in every other way - in equipment, training, and tactical command. One big difference was in field weapons. The older smooth bore flintlock muskets used in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, had been replaced by rifled percussion weapons in the American army. Grant had noted the failure of muskets before the Mexican War:

“…at a distance of a few hundred yards a man might fire at you all day without your finding it out.”7

Grant, who was always a careful student of ordnance, had noted that studies showed that, at 100 yards, a third of the musket balls and 84 percent of the buckshot usually went nowhere near the target. Later, in the Civil War, where a large number of muskets were still in use by the Confederate Army, Union superiority was exploited by Grant. Minie ball weapons, breech loaders, and, by 1864, the Spencer Repeating Rifle, were testaments to the technological knowledge of Grant, together with his fellow officers, had gained while on the staff of General Taylor in Mexico.8

Robert E. Lee proved his skills as an engineer and cartographer on the staff of General Winfield Scott during the Mexican War. Acting as a combined scout and combat engineer, his reconnaissance before the battle of Cerro Gordo and his treks across the difficult terrain of El Pedregal were important. He learned much about staff work during his tenure with Scott, but his own Confederate staff never achieved the efficiency of that of his previous commander. For example, his Civil War staff handled 89,000 men at the Seven Days battle, but was uncoordinated. He failed to take into account the smaller scale of the Mexican theater. Furthermore, his Mexican experience only reinforced tactical concepts he already had gained from West Point days. His engineering skills stressed fortifications (i.e. immobile entrenchments) rather than the lightning movements Grant and Sheridan employed in Virginia. He was expert in the tactics of Napoleon but unprepared for the nuances of military technology in 1864 and 1865.9

Lee had graduated from West Point in 1829 and had been, for a time, an instructor at the academy. He witnessed some of the actions carried out for the first time by the U.S. Regular Army during the Mexican War: the use of Colt Revolvers, the employment of “flying artillery”, and the amphibious landing of troops at Vera Cruz. He must have been aware of the useless “charge of the light brigade” tactics of the Mexican cavalry repeated in Mexican battles, yet he later directed Pickett to execute the same suicidal élan charge at Gettysburg. Lee was trained in the Jomini battle tactics of the Napoleonic Wars and seemed to miss the lessons that Grant learned in Mexico and passed on to Generals Sheridan and Wilson, who virtually destroyed the Confederate Cavalry in 1864 and 1865.10

Where Grant was influenced by Zachary Taylor, Lee was on the staff of General Winfield Scott during the Mexican War. Scott was intelligent, brave, resourceful, daring, and never lost a battle in which he was the
commander. Perhaps no other general in the history of modern warfare, except for the Duke of Marlborough, can be credited with such a record. Scott had studied at William and Mary (which then featured military training) rather than West Point (the military academy was then in its infancy). While there, he became a disciple of Antoine Henri de Jomini, at that time the greatest authority on military strategy and tactics. Scott trained all his staff officers in the lore of Jomini, or what was then called “The French School”. When a British observer at the battle of Chippewa saw Scott’s troops forming he gave what became a famous cry: “Those are regulars, by God!” Regulars they were, trained by a master of the “French School”. In Scott’s brilliant campaign in the Mexican War, from Tampico and Vera Cruz into the Valley of Mexico, and on to the capital, the “organized mobs” that one Prussian general called the army of Mexico, were swept aside with huge casualties and mass desertion. Lee observed all of this, not realizing later, that what Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan were to throw at him, in 1864 and 1865, was quite different from Mexican cavalry.11

Grant was no ordinary tactician and he was not afraid of new techniques as a horseman. During the battle of Monterey, he found a creative solution to the hazard of moving through Monterey’s dangerous streets. He swung to the side of his horse farthest from the enemy, leaving only one foot holding to the cantle of the saddle and one arm over the neck of the horse – Indian style. Shielded from stray bullets by his mount’s body, Grant sped through the streets at such a furious clip that few of the city’s defenders got off clean shots at him and both man and horse arrived at headquarters unharmed. Those who knew him at West Point, like General Longstreet, his lifelong friend, understood his relentless resourcefulness and were not at all surprised at his promotion to leadership in the Union Army. Those who did not failed to understand him until it was too late.

Grant later commented: “The Mexican War made the officers of the old regular armies more or less acquainted and when we knew the names of the general opposing we knew enough about him to make our plans accordingly. What determined my attack…was as much the knowledge I had gained of its commander in Mexico as anything else. But as the (Civil) war progressed, and each side kept improving its army, these experiments were not possible. Then it became a hard, earnest war, and neither side dared upon any chance with the other. Neither side dared to make a mistake.” 12

Both Lee and Grant had taken courses in military strategy under Dennis Mahan at West Point. Mahan stressed the value of tactical defense. He also stressed the importance of the frontal assault with bayonet, yet Lee, because of his manpower shortage, seldom tried a bayonet charge and when he did, as Pickett’s charge at Gettysburg, the results were disastrous, as they had been for the Mexican commander Santa Ana, in Mexico.13

The Mexican War was the first foreign war fought by the U.S. It was the first war anywhere in the world to be photographed, the first war in which steamboats were decisive, and the first war in which newspaper correspondents regularly reported battles witnessed. Most importantly, among the participants were a number of graduates of the U.S. Military at West Point who would, in only 12 years, face each other across the battlefields of the Civil War, notably Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee, Joseph Johnston, William Longstreet, Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, Braxton Bragg, and Union Generals Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, George McClellan, and George Meade. Approximately 75,000 men enlisted in volunteer regiments raised by nearly every state for the Mexican War, and another 12,000 served in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marines. The U.S. Army began to be the first major public sector employer under the centralized national control of the U.S. government. It became psychologically attractive to young men seeking occupational status and material security in what was becoming an increasingly unstable society.

The Mexican War was short, less than two years in duration. Yet it was no “Splendid Little War” and had few lessons for the West Pointers who controlled U.S. military training and strategy. The academy continued with what one historian describes as the “status quo”, using basically the same curriculum and programs that had existed after the War of 1812.

Some things did change. With the introduction of the rifled musket, some tactical training was provided in light infantry movements and saw some use during the Civil War. Even Grant began the Eastern campaign using frontal assaults on fixed defensive positions with light infantry using their new rifles as snipers and sharpshooters. This change, along with Grant’s recognition of the value of dismounted cavalry (armed with lightweight Spencer Repeating Rifles), as utilized by Generals Sheridan, Wilson, Grant, and Sherman, quickly underscored the superior technology of the Union army. As a result, Lee’s armies experienced the devastating flanking maneuvers of Sheridan’s 1865 cavalry battles in Virginia and, even more decisively, the December 1864 battle of Nashville, in which General Wilson’s cavalry, dismounted with Spencer Repeating Rifles, routed General Hood’s forces (including Nathan Bedford Forrest) and, in effect, took one quarter of the entire Confederate Army out of the war.
Wars often create more problems than they settle, and the Mexican War was no exception. A bitter and decisive sectional struggle over the issue of slavery expansion (into the new territories the war yielded) was an unintended consequence. Grant had no illusions about that: “…the Southern Rebellion was largely an outgrowth of the Mexican War” and was “one of the most unjust ever waged by a stronger against a weaker nation”. It was to be “our punishment”.  

No American conflict ever turned out to be a “Splendid Little War”. Even the Spanish-American War was not such an encounter. As one historian points out, bungling and suffering increased as the conflict progressed and, although the navy had a better record than the army in the Spanish American War, the glory won by Americans on the sea was due in no small part to the incredible ineptitude of their enemies, which could be said for the Mexican War, too.

There is drama in all American wars, splendid or not, but Grant’s easily perceived distaste for pageantry, proclamations, and martial display contributed to his success as a commander and to his reputation among American people ever suspicious of military formality. Not impressed by historic battles or strategic theory, Grant thoughtfully pondered the lessons of the Mexican War but approached the Civil War in terms of improved weapons, industrial technology, changing conditions, and the vast scale of the conflict. His strategic genius found fullest expression against Vicksburg, ending with the encirclement of the Confederate citadel in 1863, but he did not stop to bask in accolades until Appomattox was in sight. For him there were no “Splendid Little Wars”.  

Endnotes)

2. For a complete record of participants see Wm. Hugh Roberts, Mexican War Veterans, A Complete Roster of the Regular and Volunteer Troops in the War Between the United States and Mexico, from 1846 to 1848 (Washington DC: Brentano’s) 1887.
5. Charles King, The True Ulysses S. Grant (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott) 1914
6. Although “Splendid Little War” was a phrase coined by Ambassador John Hay in 1898, the concept includes what is now called “Limited Wars” which, throughout the 19th and 20th centuries would apply to military conflicts ranging from the Little Big Horn to the Vietnam War, and the various Middle Eastern operations, all of which expanded into lengthy and deadly sequences.
7. Grant 1990: 57

For further research, these books can be found online:

William Hugh Roberts, Mexican War Veterans: a Complete Roster of the Regular and Volunteer Troops in the War Between the United States and Mexico, from 1846 to 1848, (Washington D.C.: Brentano’s, 1887) is a compendium of all U.S. participants and also including regiments and other affiliations.

George Cullum. Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, covering 1818 to 1878. Each name listed includes a short biograph.
**Extracts**

**Multnomah County, Oregon**  
**Marriage Register Index  1911-1912**

Extracted and Proofed by Marie Diers and Eileen Chamberlin

The index is sorted by the bride’s surname. A copy of records from this and other Multnomah County Marriage Registers can be obtained in person or by mail. See details on the Genealogical Forum of Oregon website at GFO.org.

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<td>Ingram</td>
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<td>Bell</td>
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Multnomah Marriages Continued:

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Book Reviews

Eric G. Grundset with Briana L. Diaz and Hollis L. Gentry, America’s Women in the Revolutionary Era 1760-1790, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Office of the Corresponding Secretary General, NSDAR, 1776 D. St., N.W., Washington, DC 20006-5303, 2011, First Edition. Three Volumes: Volume One, 914 pages; Volume Two continues from the first volume to page 1791; Volume Three lists authors and the chronology of the articles, pages 1792-1339. May be ordered from The DAR Store.

Audience: These bibliographical volumes are for the serious scholar-genealogist, a teacher at a university, and historical researchers in numerous fields from biography to sociology, women’s arts and crafts, etc.

Purpose: The books are not intended to be read as literature, since they are lists of sources for the students of women’s lives during revolutionary times.

Content: We find this compendium to be balanced, including all races, social classes, and religions. Regions of the Americas and Britain are explored through the women’s experiences. There is even a section on girl’s lives.

Writing Style and Organization: Many women can be found through their husband’s names. For example, Abigail Adams is most often found by referring to her husband in the index and table of contents.

The following chapter headings give a sense of the scope of these volumes: Women’s biography; American Girls; African American Women; Native American Women; Women in Society; Women, Politics, and Public Life; Women and the American Economy; Women, Culture, Education, and Creative Arts; Women, Writing, Reading and Creating on Paper; Women, Girls, and the War Effort during the American Revolution; The second volume deals with women in various regions.

Editors’ Qualifications: Eric Grundset is the Director of the DAR Library, having been hired in 1983. He has strived to make the organization’s holdings more user friendly and won the 2006 Filby Award for Genealogical Librarianship. A MLS, he is a former VP of the National Genealogical Society and former president of the Virginia Genealogical Society.

Conclusion: These books truly are a treasure, They are delight to look at, but as we said above, they are not suited to casual reading—research only.

Shannon Schaefer and Judith Leppert


Audience: While one would expect those most interested would be Flemish-American researchers and the several young Goethals on Facebook, I believe this booklet has a wider appeal: those researching French as well as Belgian ancestors will find a wealth of basic information to help interpret documents. Some background in ancestral research is useful; however, even a beginner should be able to navigate the very clear history, maps, Belgian sources, and vital records in Flemish, French or Latin. (The explanations are in English.)

Purpose: Upon examining European genealogical research guidebooks in English, the authors decided to present a work, combining their professional experience, that would benefit the wider American public. They wanted to introduce genealogical resources obtainable in the United States, saving you a trip to the Old Country, and to assist in finding and interpreting these sources. Their purpose is achieved through the wealth of general information found in a compact booklet.

Authors’ Qualifications: The author’s qualifications are considerable. Father Karel Denys was an international missionary in Brussels and Peking. In 1948, he returned to the United States to serve parishes in three states, before moving to the “Belgian Church” in Detroit, Michigan.

Content: Both Flanders and Wallachia geographic areas are covered in “The Emigration from Belgium to America.” During the 19th and 20th century forces on both sides of the Atlantic compelled emigration from Flanders to the United States. The growing fragmentation of farms divided by the growth of families and, concurrently, the death of its textile industry when England mechanized weaving and exported cheap linen to the Continent caused rampant poverty. This was furthered by the economic disaster of the 1845 potato disease and the wheat pest. Typhoid and cholera broke out which provided an impetus to emigrate. Many went to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Another wave of emigration occurred prior to World War II; industrial workers headed for Moline, Illinois and Detroit. Some farmers formed a colony in Ghent, Lyon County, Minnesota.
The book provides a brief history of Flanders, commencing in 863 after the Viking attacks, follows the Flemish Counts and the French Kings through the Crusades into the Burgundian and Habsburg Periods from 1383 to 1804 and on to Belgian Independence in 1830. Linguistic culture wars ensued with French versus Flemish and Dutch-Flemish, (which is only one language).

Belgian sources in the United States and Internet websites include genealogical societies and Belgian researchers, as well as the American Gleanings available in the list of libraries on page 21.

Part II presents Civil Records in Flanders, beginning in 1796 and including population registers, census records, military records and the civil registry. To this researcher, the Vital Records section is amazing, it has: a glossary for dates, introductory lines, an example of a main record and an explanation of the closing lines. The same is done for marriage records and death records. The French Republican Calendar, used between 1793 and 1805, has a glossary and two superb charts on pages 34-35 which unlock the dates to coincide with our familiar Gregorian or Western, Christian Calendar. Parish Records are broken down in the manner of the Vital Records, together with a method for analysis of them. Other sources of the Old Regime are the Aldermen’s Bench, guilds, Orphan Guardianships, Tax Lists and “Burghers.”

While there is no index, appendices abound. A. Flemish Surnames and Christian Names, B. State Archives in Flanders, C. The Flemish Association for Family History, D. Currency and Land Measurements, and E. Glossary of Flemish, French and Latin Terms. A Bibliography (a translation of the Flemish titles) follows. The back cover has a detailed negative of the cathedrals and canal in Ghent.

**Writing Style and Organization:** The writing style, edited into English, is straightforward, clear and concise.

The organization of the volume has been amply covered above. This treatment works well for the researcher and the casual reader. Because the sequence of sources is so well explained, the conclusions the authors’ draw add value to the information available.

**Conclusion:** This writer concludes that there is a great deal of fine information for such a small number of pages (81). In the authors’ own words, “For persons of Flemish ancestry, [and others needing the glossaries] searching for Flemish Ancestors will be a godsend.”

Gretchen Ellis Martin

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**Searching for an Ancestor’s Military Records**

There are two main repositories for records of military service. One is the National Archives (NARA) in Washington D.C. and the other is the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Many, if not most, researchers will be interested in the records at NARA as most are pre-1900, while the NPRC records are almost all after that date. For specific information on collections in each locality and the time periods covered, check the NARA website.

**Volunteer Military Service**

Many ancestors’ of genealogists were volunteers. When researching these individuals, start with the compiled military service records. These records are cards abstracted from muster rolls, returns, pay vouchers and other materials. This information may make reference to wounds, hospitalization, absence with or without leave, court-martials and death.

A general name index and compiled service records are available on microfilm for Revolutionary War soldiers. The War of 1812, early Indian Wars, Mexican War and Spanish-American War have microfilmed indexes, but the compiled service records are not on microfilm.

There is no general name index for Union soldiers in the Civil War, but there are microfilmed name indexes for each state. Check state archives for records of non-federalized troops such as state or local militias or National Guard units.

If the compiled military records have not been microfilmed, records may be accessed at the National Archives or by requesting copies using NATF Form 86, available on NARA’s website.

**Pensions**

The National Archives has pension applications and records of payments for veterans, their wives and other heirs between 1775 and 1916. Pension files may contain supporting documents that provide a great deal of information for genealogists. Pension files at the National Archives are divided into these groups: Revolutionary War, Old Wars, War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, Civil War and later. The records in each group are arranged alphabetically by name except those in the Civil War and later. These are arranged numerically by application, certificate or file number. All groups have alphabetical name indexes.

Visit the NARA website at: http://www.archives.gov/

Some of these records have been digitized at Fold3.com.
In Memoriam

Harold Leslie Kelley

Harold Leslie Kelley was born on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, 1925. He died in the Veteran’s Hospital in The Dalles, Oregon, on Valentine’s Day, February 14, 2012, at age 86. He was cremated at Rose City Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

Harold was a veteran of the US Navy. He was very proud of his military service and was never seen without his ship’s cap wherever he was.

Harold joined the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in May 1979. He became a Life Member in 1997. For years, he was a regular researcher in the GFO library on Thursdays. He quickly learned to use the new research tools available on the library computers as they became available.

His research materials will have been donated to the Forum by the time this notice is published. Of special research importance is his double descent from the Warren family of Mayflower fame. He also had boxes of books and periodicals that will be processed by the Library Director. Harold was a very careful researcher. He always wanted to know the source of any information added to his own family history.

Harold was an accomplished organist. He owned several rare and exotic organs, among them a theater organ and a harpsichord. He had an unbuilt pipe organ in his possession when he moved to the Baptist Home. These items were sold and given away when his home had to be sold because of failing health.

Harold owned a small pickup and was always willing to help the Forum by bringing the truck to move items. Many times, he helped move necessary equipment and books to and from GFO HQ to seminar sites.

Some members remember meeting with Harold when they were all researching at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. They enjoyed talking about family research, visiting, and dining in the area restaurants.

Harold spent time at the Baptist Home before being transferred to the Veteran’s Hospital in The Dalles where he died.

May Harold Leslie Kelley’s soul rest in peace. He was truly a kind and gentle man.

(Ed. Note. Several of our GFO members contributed to this article written by Gerry Lenzen)
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Compiled by Dean H. Byrd
Co-compiled by Stanley R. Clarke and Janice M. Healy

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